



# THE CHAT

*Bulletin of*



Volume 18

MARCH, 1954

Number 1



# THE CHAT

Vol. 18, No. 1

MARCH 1954

Published by The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Devoted to the publication of scientific and popular information on the birds and other wildlife of the Carolinas.

*Editor:* Kay Curtis Sisson, 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C.

*Co-editor:* Annie Rivers Faver, Eastover, S. C.

*Editorial Board:* Gilbert Bristow, B. R. Chamberlain, E. B. Chamberlain, Harry Davis, Jack Dermid, Charlotte Hilton Green, T. L. Quay, Mary Louise Quincy, Phillips Russell, T. W. Simpson, D. E. Wade, D. L. Wray.

*Distribution Office:* N. C. State Museum, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C.

*The Chat* is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December as the official bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Entered as second-class matter on March 14, 1952, at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price to non-members: \$1.00 per volume. Single copies: 30 cents. Correspondence about changes of address and back numbers should be sent to Mr. Harry Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. *Please notify the Distribution Office immediately of change of address.* Subscriptions should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., and sent to the Treasurer.

---

---

## CONTENTS

The President's Page.....	1
High Point Region—Bionomically Speaking. <i>James Mattocks</i> .....	2
Audubon Wildlife Tours. <i>Alexander Sprunt, Jr.</i> .....	5
The Carolinas Christmas Count for 1953. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	6
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor.....	11
Books. <i>Thomas L. Quay</i> , editor.....	13
Midwinter Field Trip at Pea Island. <i>Robert Overing</i> .....	14
The Status of Migratory Hawks in the Carolinas. <i>Thomas W. Simpson</i> ..	15
CBC Spring Meeting Notice.....	21
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor.....	22
Notes on North Carolina Coastal Colonies. <i>Harry T. Davis and Robert Holmes, III</i> .....	23
Notes on Interior Colonies. <i>D. L. Wray</i> .....	24
Blue Goose Record for Upper Piedmont, S. C. <i>Douglas Wade</i> .....	25
Early Arrival Records for Canada Goose in Upper Piedmont, S. C. <i>Douglas Wade</i> .....	25
Swallow-tailed Kite in Mountains. <i>Alexander Sprunt, Jr.</i> .....	25
Osprey Behavior. <i>Sam Baker</i> .....	25
Peregrine Falcon at Columbia, S. C. <i>Jere D. Eggleston</i> .....	25
Ring-billed Gulls Near Edenton, N. C. <i>Thomas L. Quay</i> ..	25
Mourning Doves: Mass Behavior in Watering. <i>William H. Hon</i> .....	26
Owls. (Barred) <i>Eugene Hester</i> ; (Screech) <i>Doris Simpson</i> .....	27
Briefs for the Files. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	27
New and Reinstated Members. Compiled by <i>Edwin W. Winkler</i> .....	28
Present Status of Avian Forms for South Carolina. <i>Alexander Sprunt, Jr.</i> ..	Inside Back Cover

---

---

**Cover Photograph**—Christmas Census Takers in Silhouette, photographed by Gordon H. Brown, South Carolina Wildlife Resources Dept., Columbia, S. C. The publication of this distinctive photograph has been made possible by the generous support of Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Wilmington, N. C.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

An excellent New Year's resolution, which is not yet too late, would be for all of us to continue to support the Carolina Bird Club to the best of our abilities. Aside from the obvious benefits we receive for our nominal membership dues, and the affinity we feel we have with our fellow members and with Thoreau and Burroughs, as well as, perhaps to a lesser degree for some of us, with Audubon and Wilson, we owe it to the living ornithologists in our midst to provide as wide a circulation for the distribution of their current observations as is possible. We can do this best by renewing our memberships promptly each year and by encouraging our friends who are interested in any phase of bird study to join our Club.

The articles which appear in *The Chat*, though popularly written for the most part, and thoroughly readable, are accurate and authentic. They are carefully edited, and many would be acceptable in scientific journals. Their appearance in *The Chat* guarantees that they will be read by many hundreds of persons in North and South Carolina, where the authors reside and make their observations. No purely scientific journal, I think, can offer such dissemination.

The articles in *The Chat* are written by CBC members for CBC members, though they are not limited to local interest or consumption, and the knowledge of the avifauna in our States is richly increased by the wide circulation of our magazine. The quality and arrangement of the photographs in *The Chat* are second to none.

You are all again invited and encouraged to submit your own observations to the Editors of *The Chat*. Accounts of studies made in connection with educational projects are especially welcome. There should never be a dearth of manuscript material in the Editor's hands.

Our goal is to reach the largest number of Carolinians with the most authentic and interesting information possible. Let's all help.

—ROBERT OVERING.

# HIGH POINT REGION—BIONOMICALLY SPEAKING

JAMES MATTOCKS

The area about High Point, North Carolina is typical of the well-drained upper Piedmont geography of the southeastern states. The elevation is 940 feet and the average rainfall is approximately 48 inches. The area is situated on minor divides and drains rapidly in various directions; there are no rivers of size near by. The soil is of granite origin, generally acid, and is primarily tight red clay (Cecil) with sections of gray sandy loams (Wilkes, underlain by yellow clay, and Cecil, underlain by red subsoil.) The surface is moderately rough, and is often cut by fairly steep ravines.

The original forest cover was presumably the typical oak-hickory climax; but has been subject to repeated cutting for so many generations that no original cover remains. Present wood lot composition includes White, Post, Scarlet, Spanish, Red, Black and Blackjack Oak, a smattering of Willow Oak, various hickories, Tulip Poplar, Sourwood, Sweet Gum and Black Gum; Sycamore and River Birch occur along the streams. Persimmon and Dogwood, while not important forest trees, still support certain specialized wood industries.

The Red Maple, being generally distributed, and not being cut as the more valuable lumber is taken, often becomes more and more dominant in cut over areas. The two pines native to this area are the Shortleaf (*echinata*) and the Scrub (*virginia*); Loblolly plantings grow well in the area, perhaps even more vigorously than the native pines, while ornamental White Pine plantings have done well. Red Cedar is quite generally distributed in abandoned pastures and forest edge.

The infrequent winter sleets and the characteristic hot dry period of late summer may be limiting factors for plants which would otherwise do well in the area. Wet meadows, which were formerly a common feature of the landscape, have mostly been drained and put under cultivation, destroying such habitat for birds.

The region depends primarily upon industry, although there is diversified small scale farming and dairying. A large proportion of the area is still in wood lot, cut over but generally ungrazed.

The area has a rich flora, which has been seriously depleted by agriculture, industrial development, and repeated lumbering. A few shaded ravines still remain, however, bearing the original Beech cover (which has never been worth cutting). Typical spring flowers are Hepatica, Chickweed, Bloodroot, Foam Flower, Dog-tooth Violet, Wild Ginger, Bellwort (spp.) yellow, white and blue violets (spp.), trilliums (primarily *catesbii* and *sessile*), Jack-in-the-pulpit, Blue Phlox, Pinks (spp.), Anemones, Dwarf Iris (*cristata*), May Apple, orchids (*spectabilis*, Whorled Pogonia, Moccasin Flower, Twayblade, Crane Fly, Rattlesnake Plantain, Adam and Eve, Ladies Tresses), azaleas and some Mountain Laurel. A surprisingly wide variety of ferns and fern allies occur.

The meadow and abandoned field flora has become depleted by close cultivation and drainage; but includes Paint Brush, Atamasco Lily, Wild Rose, Squirrel Corn, Marshallia, Snake Mouth Pogonia, Beardtongue, Lobelias (blue and red), Thistles, Goldenrods, Skull Cap, Asters, Buttonwood, etc.

The advent of the tractor has meant close cultivation of fields formerly abandoned, with the resultant decrease of Bob-white. Hunting preserves, which were common a generation ago, based largely upon Quail hunting, have now been broken up and sold. In spite of close settlement, however, isolated pockets of Wild Turkeys remain, although their extermination may occur at any time. Opening of large areas for airports and golf courses and the fall planting of small grain leaves suitable areas for increasing numbers of Pipits, Horned Larks, and other field birds during the winter season. Horned Larks have nested in recent years at the High Point-Greensboro Airport.

Persistent lumbering has opened areas to birds formerly not present in number, such as the Prairie Warbler, which is now abundant in some areas. In similar areas, occasionally, occurs the Pine-woods Sparrow.

Such brush and the resulting small bird population favor accipters, and the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned are now frequent all year. This increase has probably been aided by the persistent shooting of the buteos, which are easier to kill. However, the Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawks are still summer residents in small numbers. Sparrow Hawks are not infrequent in winter, but quite scarce during the summer; Marsh Hawks occur sparingly in winter. Bald Eagle, Duck Hawk and Pigeon Hawk have occurred (which is about all that can be said on that matter), with occasional Ospreys, most noticeable during the spring.

Screech Owls and even Barred Owls have made some adjustment to city life, while Great Horned Owls still occur nearby. A Barn Owl is occasionally seen, but no nest has been located. Poisoning of rats is widespread, but we have no knowledge of its effect upon the owl population.

The Piedmont section, having been above the sea from ancient times, had no natural impoundments of water. The numerous reservoirs and farm ponds, constantly increasing, constitute a new asset in the environment for water fowl and shore birds. A wide variety of ducks occur during the winter, including Mallard, Black, Gadwall, Baldpate, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, (in migration) Redhead, Ring-necked, Canvas-back, Scaup, Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Ruddy Ducks and others. Ducks come to new ponds during the first two or three years, but are persistently shot and return less frequently. Proper management of this new pond resource could increase our winter population of wild fowl tremendously. Canada Geese occasionally pass over the area in small numbers.

Wood Ducks occur, but we have no nesting record of recent years. A few years ago, our local club erected Wood Duck boxes at the city lake; but, since that time, dry weather and increased consumption have caused the level of the water to drop five or six feet each summer, leaving a wide bare area around all the shores which would be fatal to ducklings. There is good reason to expect that such public reservoirs will continue to fluctuate; but private ponds could provide numerous nesting facilities.

There is extensive predation by dogs and cats. On a recent drive it appeared that almost every fence row, ditch, and thicket had one or more cats patiently waiting by the edge of the weeds for some unwary sparrow to fly out of the shelter.

Box Turtles are common, with consequent damage to ground nesting birds; while Snapping Turtles seem to be available for every new pond, with

consequent hazard for water fowl. Rattlesnakes and Cottonmouth Moccasins do not appear to have ever occurred in the immediate area. Copperheads, King Snakes, Hog-nosed Snakes and Black racers were formerly frequent, but are now seldom seen. Ring-necked Snakes, Garter Snakes, Green Snakes and the small Ground Snakes are present, as well as the common Water Snakes.

Raccoons are rare; while Opossums are common and appear to be increasing, both in the city and country. Flying Squirrels seem to widely take advantage of city bird boxes and feeding trays. Gray Squirrels are common; no Red or Fox Squirrels. Occasional Minks and Weasels remain, but are so rare as to have slight effect. Foxes are introduced from time to time, and the usual controversy between fox-hunters and land owners flares up regularly.

For some years Ring-necked Pheasants were raised and released in this area, but disappeared within a few years. However, both Bob-white and Pheasant culture are not uncommon as a hobby, and local men have remarkable success in raising Bob-whites in small cages over wire.

Woodcock and Snipe occur during migration, and Woodcock are presumed to occasionally nest. Killdeers are common, but our area is extremely weak on other shore birds. While the occurrence of shore birds is erratic and small in number, quite a variety of species have turned up from time to time.

White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches are summer residents and are joined by the Red-breasted in the winter. Flickers, Hairy, Downy, Red-bellied and Red-headed Woodpeckers are residents, Sapsuckers are present during winter; but we know of no Pileated nearer than Greensboro.

The average complement of passerines occur in the city and on the farm. Scarlet Tanagers have been summer residents in the area for the past three consecutive years; Rough-winged Swallows and Purple Martins nest in the area, other swallows pass through on migration. The summer population of Red-eyed Vireos is abundant, Yellow-throated Vireos not uncommon, White-eyed Vireos common along the thickets, and the Solitary Vireo, frequent in migration, occurs as the summer resident, the first nest in the immediate area having been located last summer. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers nest sparingly. Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks nest commonly in the farm areas, as do Grasshopper Sparrows, Field Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows and Meadowlarks. Swamp, White-throat, Field and Song Sparrows and Juncos are quite numerous during the winter, Savannah Sparrows not uncommon, an occasional Fox Sparrow and erratic Chipping Sparrows.

Starlings are numerous; House Sparrows were very numerous a dozen years ago, but suffered a great population decline, from which they have recovered somewhat, and are now present in moderate numbers.

Grackles and Red-wings nest locally and large flocks are present during migrations and often in the winter, sometimes accompanied by a few Rusty Blackbirds. Cowbirds are common on migration and a few individuals remain late into the summer; Bobolinks occur in spring and fall migration.

A prominent feature in present agricultural practices is the use of annual lespedezas, sown with small grain, which develops into a thick cover following the harvesting of the grain. This provides excellent cover against erosion, but does not appear to be especially good for birds. The cover becomes too thick for satisfactory nesting and mowing occurs at times hazardous for ground nesting species. Bob-white will use lespedeza fields for roosting; but

I am advised that they do not consume the seeds because of the inability of their digestive processes to penetrate the heavy seed coat. Therefore, the lespedeza fields tend to be rather barren during the winter, and most of the winter open field birds prefer dairy meadows and barnyards.

Seed production appears to be ordinarily quite adequate to carry the customary wintering populations. Snows are infrequent and persistent snows of any depth are rare. Natural water supplies seldom freeze over; occasional sleets glaze over food supplies; but this condition is usually of only a few hours duration. After such sleets, tailless sparrows are sometimes seen.

For more adequate listing of birds of the area, see the Christmas Counts of High Point, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem in the *Audubon Field Notes* and *The Chat*. See also the reports of Greensboro and Winston-Salem Spring counts in the *The Chat*.—*High Point, N. C., Jan. 11, 1954.*

[This article was read by Guy Emerson, Past President of the Audubon Society and well known field ornithologist, while on a recent visit to Columbia. Many will recall his *New Horizons in Ecology* in the *Audubon Magazine* 54: 156-157 (May-June) 1952. Mr. Emerson recommends *The Web of Life* by John Storer as "a first book in ecology". This excellent book, which I have just read, will be reviewed in the next issue of *The Chat*.—Ed.]

---

## Audubon Wildlife Tours

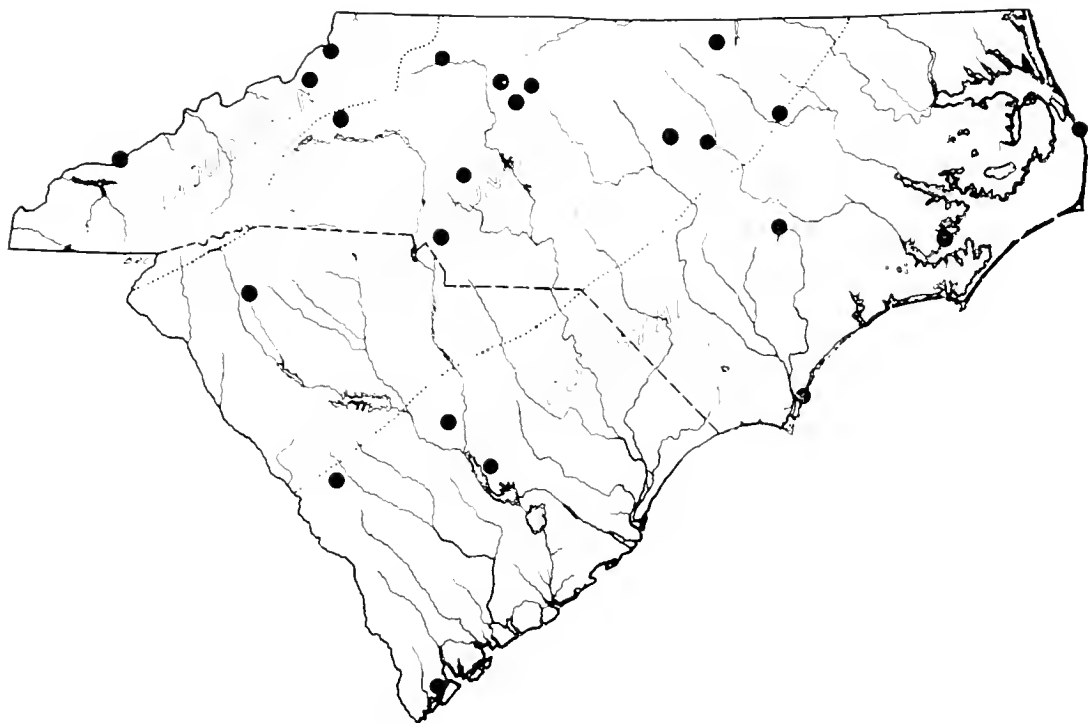
To Readers of *The Chat*:

Would you like to see Florida (Sandhill) Cranes, Caracara, Limpkin, Glossy Ibis and Burrowing Owls? Would you like to see them under the following conditions—sitting in the seat of a comfortable station-wagon, paying no attention to where you are going or how to get there, only raising to your eyes a pair of 7x or 9x Bausch & Lomb binoculars (furnished free of charge) and looking through them when told to do so?

Would you like to see egrets, Anhingas, ducks, grebes, hawks, eagles, vireos, warblers and *Cattle Egrets*? Would you like to go on a trip which is as near guaranteed bird observation regarding species you want to see, as is possible in this country? Then all you have to do is to come on an Audubon Wildlife Tour out of Okeechobee, Florida.

If you want to see Roseate Spoonbills, Frigate-birds, Great White Herons, Crocodiles, Alligators, all you have to do is go down to Miami after you are through at Okeechobee and take the Audubon Wildlife Tour into the Everglades and Keys. They would be four days you will never forget.

These tours will run through April. Why not write to the National Audubon Society, 13 McAllister Hotel Arcade, Miami, Fla., and ask for a tour folder, on which every trip is dated, with a box behind the date for you to designate the trip you want? How would you like to eat a good hot lunch at a fish camp on the shore of Lake Okeechobee, or sandwiches and coffee on the banks of the Kissimmee River, or on a "hammock" on the prairie with an Audubon warden? All you have to do is say when you want to come—you will see what you came for!—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, JR. (*In April of 1949 I went on the Everglades Tour and still look back upon it as one of the greatest experiences of my life. The Tour was then in its third year. Charles Brookfield told us that one person had taken this Tour fifteen times!—Ed.*)



## THE CAROLINAS CHRISTMAS COUNT FOR 1953

The presentation of our Christmas and spring counts in the tabular form used in the past few years is undoubtedly the best method we have ever used to show all of the facts. There are two disadvantages: it is space consuming; and only a small part of our readers, numbering over 1,200, ever examine the tables for the data in them. Since all of the information is available, or can be published, in *Audubon Field Notes*, our serious workers will find it there. It is also available in our files, upon request.

The present narrative report is designed to be more readable; to give high lights of our counts; and to permit more space to the other departments.

In the following 25 summaries, key figure results of the counts over the past five years are given, if available, in chronological sequence beginning with the Christmas count of 1949: Number of species / Number of observers.

The **Wilmington** 1953 count is of particular interest. Their total of 162 species will be very close to the top figure over the whole country. The lowest figure returned was from Linville, N. C., in the Grandfather Mountain area. It was a substantial improvement over the count of 13 made on the 1952 count.

**AIKEN, S. C.** Five year score: . . ; 40/1; 45/1; 52/1; 53/1. Dec. 31; clear; temp 40°-55°. Same area as before. About 2000 individuals. Single observer, William Post, Jr., Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Sedge Wren are noteworthy. Kildeer count ran to 355. There were about 280 of them in the 1952 count.

**CHAPEL HILL, N. C.;** Five year score: . . ; 61/6; 75/16; 70/13; 69/17. Dec. 27; clear; temp. 24°-50°. Area unchanged. About 2700 individuals, which is a slight increase over last year's count, and due in part to 400 Slate-



colored Juncos. No marked departures from usual species. Eleven parties. Compiler: Matt L. Thompson. Mrs. Matt L. Thompson, Bobby Thompson, Phillips Russell, Mrs. Guyon Johnson, **W. L. McAtee**, Dr. and Mrs. Gerald MacCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Kaigh, Miss Francis Yocum, Miss Mary Yocum, Coyt Coker, Mrs. Adelaide Walters, Lt. Col. Mark Orr, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Sharp. (Chapel Hill Bird Club).

CHARLESTON, S. C. Five year score: 145/38; 137/27; 123/20; 126/18; 131/12. Dec. 26. Clear; temp. 29°-57°. Area as usual - including Bull's Island and adjacent mainland. The only rare find of the 131 species counted was a **Worm-eating Warbler** on Bull's Island (Sprunt *et al*). This warbler is seldom found above the southern tip of Florida in winter. Compiler: Alexander Sprunt, Jr. T. A. Becket III, William Coleman, Mr. and Mrs. Rock Comstock, John Henry Dick, Robert Edwards, I. H. Metcalf, I. S. H. Metcalf, James Shuler, Paul Sturm, Arthur Wilcox, Ellison Williams.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. Five year score: 47/11; 50/16; 55/11; 56/8; 58/12. Jan. 2, cloudy, 19°-51°. Individuals about 1450. A single Canada Goose was not on previous counts in essentially the same area. Three parties, exclusive of two feeder counts. Compiler: B. R. Chamberlain. Jean Burgin, Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, Norman Chamberlain, Mrs. Edwin O. Clarkson, Dick Crutchfield, J. P. Hamilton, Jane Little, Stephen Mahaley, Brem Mayer, William Smith, Olin P. Wearn. (Mecklenburg Audubon Club).

COLLETON NECK, S. C. No previous count. Located near Bluffton, about 25 miles NE of Savannah, Ga. This count: 85/1. Dec. 27, clear, temp. 38°-57°. About 1800 individuals. An unusually good coverage for a single observer: William Post, Jr. No very unusual species, excepting possibly a Black & White Warbler.

COLUMBIA, S. C. Five year score: 50/9; 49/6; 59/7; 66/11; 65/12. Dec. 29. Heavy fog with intermittent rain all day; temp. 45°-60°. Area as usual but somewhat limited by flooded sections. A single **Am. Tree Sparrow** was rarest find. In 15 years of records for Lexington & Richland Counties, it had not been seen until the above date. (According to *S. C. Bird Life*, up to 1949 there had never been an actual record of this species in the state. On Jan. 26, 1952 one was identified at Bull's Island.) 3 **White-crowned Sparrows** were also noteworthy. Compiler: Gilbert J. Bristow. Mrs. J. B. Frazier, Jr., Mrs. S. E. Hartin, Jimmy Hartin, Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hendrix, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kissam, Edward C. Lee, David Monteith, Charles I. Simons, Kay Sisson.

EASTOVER, S. C. Five year score: 47/3; 50/4; 44/3; 65/2; 60/3. Jan. 3, fair, temp 49°-65°. An abundance of Rusty Blackbirds, Killdeer, and Eastern Meadowlarks. Coverage over the usual area, with the addition of Goodwill Pond area. One party. Compiler: Mrs. W. H. Faver, W. H. Faver, Mrs. Clyde Sisson.

ELKIN, N. C. Five year score: ; 42/3; 36/2; 60/13; 54/13. Dec. 26, fair, 20°-52°. Above 3000 individuals. Ducks were scarce due to ice. A single Blue Goose, and about 220 Canada Geese were unusual. Other abundant species: Mourning Dove, 226; American Robin, 600; Eastern Meadowlark, 188, Slate-colored Junco, 427. Compiler: E. M. Hodel, Tom Roth, Tom Bryan, Jr., Bill Roth, Tom Hendren, Hugh G. Chatham, Hubert Willis, Mrs. Linville Hendren, Mrs. E. M. Hodel, Rev. Fowler, Linville Hendren, Wendell P. Smith.

GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK. Five year score: 59/30; 59/34; 58/40; 57/30; 62/30. Jan. 3 clear to partly cloudy, Temp. 25°-55°. About 2900 individuals. The uniform number of species and the large numbers of observers over the years is unusual and probably indicates thorough coverage. There was little that was unusual in this year's species, excepting that White-crowned Sparrows are listed again. They were carried in last year's count, for the first time. Ten parties. Mary Ruth Chiles, William Cole, Hugh Davis, Jr., Margaret Dickson, Larry

Doyle, Robert J. Dunbar, Mary Enloe, Keeton Griffin, Joseph C. Howell, Don Hurley, John Jacobs, E. S. Janson, Richard Laurence, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Leonhard, James E. Liles, Richard Lorenz, Mr. & and Mrs. R. A. Monroe, Julia I. Moore, Kenneth Newton, Mrs. E. E. Overton, Paul Pardue, Robert Scott, III, William F. Searle, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Stupka, Maryann Stupka, James T. Tanner, Samuel R. Tipton, Lois Tucker (Tennessee Ornithological Society. National Park Service, and guests).

GREENSBORO, N. C. Five year score: 66/24; 74/24; 74/29; 77/32; 73/29. Dec. 27, nearly clear, Temp 27°-48°. No change in area. Thin ice. Sixteen parties. Of the 12,000 individuals tallied, nearly one half were Common Starlings. Other high counts were Slate-colored Juncos, 1523; White-throated Sparrows, 626; Field Sparrows, 338. A single **White-crowned Sparrow** is a new-comer to the Greensboro lists. Compiler: Thomas E. Street. Dr. Hollis J. Rogers, C. R. Lamb, Hugh L. Medford, Jr., Mrs. W. F. Smyre, Mrs. Robert E. McCoy, Oscar H. Paris, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. George W. Perrett, Mr. & Mrs. G. W. Daniels, Mrs. W. C. Carr, John Carr, Mrs. R. H. Weisner, Etta Schiffman, Ida Mitchell, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, Dr. & Mrs. F. H. McNutt, Mr. & Mrs. F. H. Craft, Mrs. A. D. Shaftesbury, Edith Settan, George A. Smith, Norris G. Grubbs, James R. Mattox, James W. Furr, Lee Watts.

GREENVILLE, S. C. Five year score: . . . ; 38/4; 52/7; . . . ; 37/4. Jan. 2, clear, 35°-50°. Same area as in earlier counts. No unusual species or numbers of individuals. There was a noticeable absence of ducks. Compiler: May W. Puett. Ruth Gilreath, Gladys Hart, Lillian Hart.

HENDERSON, N. C. Five year score: 46/5 . . . ; 43/3; 56/3; 53/3. Dec. 28, overcast. Same area. One party. Eleven species of water birds feature this count. Last year there were 6 of these, and the year before that, only 1. The change has been brought about rapidly by the recent building of the Buggs Island Dam. It is safe to predict that this area will soon show a marked increase in bird life generally. Cormorants, Canada Geese, Mallards, Wood Ducks, Scaup, Bufflehead, and Coots, are already present. Compiler: Miss Garnette Myers. Miss Mariel Gary, Mrs. A. W. Bachman.

HIGH POINT, N. C. Five year score: 49/18; 53/15; 56/12; 55/20; 58/17. Dec. 26, weather data not given. No unusual features. The most abundant bird was the Slate-colored Junco (272). Eight Water Pipits are noteworthy. Compiler: Mrs. W. F. Ellis. Mr. & Mrs. James Mattocks, Mr. & Mrs. C. B. Mattocks, Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Hayworth, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Eshelman, Miss Barbara Brooks, Mr. W. F. Lawing, Miss Edith Sherrod, Mrs. Worth Ivey, Mrs. Charles Siceloff, Miss Mary Alice Siceloff, Miss Genevieve Moore, Mrs. Harry Alexander. (Catesby Bird Club).

LENOIR, N. C. Five year score: 33/18; . . . ; 30/14; 31/6; 45/11. Dec. 30, foggy - clearing, temp. 40°-45°. Three parties. Same area as before. Mourning Doves comprised about one quarter of the entire count of about 1450 individuals. Slate-colored Juncos numbered 160. The outstanding bird was the White-crowned Sparrow. Thirty-six of them were counted. Last year's count carried none, and there was but one the year before that. Compiler: Fred H. May, Mr. & Mrs. R. T. Greer, Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Lovin, Mrs. G. M. Goforth, Miss Cary Harrison, Mrs. J. S. Bernard, Tom Parks, Mrs. Fred H. May. (Lenoir Bird Club).

LINVILLE, N. C. Five year score: . . . ; . . . ; . . . ; 13/1; 18/1. Jan. 3, cloudy, rain, wind up to 50 m.p.h., temp. 31°-41°. Observer Fred W. Behrend. "Terrific wind from morning to mid-afternoon, which naturally affected observations as birds kept under cover. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were low over the Linville Golf course. I was pleased to find a White-throated Sparrow at the relatively high altitude of 3700 ft., just west of Linville. Also Common Meadowlarks at high altitudes on wires and in pastures". A Ruffed Grouse was included in the count.

MOUNT OLIVE, N. C. Five year score: 58/1; 61/1; 66/2; . . . ; 67/1. Dec. 26, clear to partly cloudy, temp. 29°-52°. Area same as previous

counts. One observer: Robert Holmes, III. Two **Orchard Orioles** and 4 **Baltimore Orioles** are features of this count. Both species were present and closely studied several days before and after the count. The **Orchard Orioles** are in the same predominantly yellowish plumage as the bird collected at this feeder in the winter of 1945. On Jan. 2, 1954, ten orioles; four **Baltimore**, and 6 **Orchard Orioles**, were in a tree in Holmes' yard at the same time. An **Orange-crowned Warbler** in the count should be mentioned. Total individuals were about 2900.

**ORIENTAL, N. C.** No previous count. This count partial. Two observers, 4½ hrs. Jan. 2, cool, clear, windy, temp. 50°-60°. Total species, 31. The list submitted was confined to land birds. Compilers: Mrs. C. S. Warren, Dr. J. B. Warren.

**PEA ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, DARE COUNTY, N. C.** Five year score: ...; 39/3; 33/4; ...; 61/30. Jan. 2, clear, temp. 19°-51°. Three parties. The count was confined to the refuge part of the island and its waterway approach. This accounts for the absence of Robins and such species common to the mainland. Snow Geese were reported to have begun migration in some thousands a few days before the count. The remaining number was estimated to be approximately 4000, with 2500 or more **Canada Geese** still present. At least 150 **Whistling Swans** were seen. **Great Black-backed Gulls** were estimated to number 50, and **Herring Gulls**, 2000. **Pintail** were plentiful, as were **Black Ducks**, **American Widgeon**, and **Ruddy Ducks**. Compiler: B. R. Chamberlain. Anne S. Adams, Leon Balance, Gordon H. Brown, Mrs. B. R. Chamberlain, B. R. Chamberlain, Jr., Norman Chamberlain, Betty Clark, Phillip Davis, Frank Edgerton, III, Hannah T. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green, Mrs. A. H. King, Mrs. M. B. Koonce, Harry W. McGalliard, Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. May, Frank Meacham, Ethel McNairy, Sarah Nooe, Robert Overing, H. C. Phillips, T. L. Quay, Lucile Rice, Etta Schiffman, Fannie G. Sutton, Lewis B. Turner, Mrs. Margaret Y. Wall, Mrs. T. Y. Walker, Mrs. H. W. Walters (Carolina Bird Club, Inc).

**RALEIGH, N. C.** Five year score: 62/8; 60/9; 60/10; 67/9; 74/12. Dec. 28, cloudy, temp. 38°-55°. Six parties. Practically same area as previous counts. Total individuals, about 7,900, of which **Starlings** numbered 5,600. **Gadwall** (2), and **Redheads** (4), raised the number of species of ducks to 13. The others: **Mallard**, **Black Duck**, **American Widgeon**, **American Pintail**, **Green-Winged Teal**, **Shoveller**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Greater Scaup**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, **Ruddy Duck**. **Slate-covered Juncos** numbered under 200. The last year figure was 737. **Song Sparrows** (100) were about twice as plentiful as last year. A single **Whistling Swan**, not found on the count, was reported Dec. 25, and still present Jan. 10. Compiler: D. L. Wray. Will Hon, Robert Overing, Philip Davis, Mr. & Mrs. E. W. Winkler, Johnny Winkler, James F. Green, Mrs. D. L. Wray, John Wray, Frank Meacham, Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green.

**ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.** Five year score: ...; 53/3; 60/4; 48/3; 48/3. Dec. 28, fair, temp. 28°-50°. Same area as in previous years. About 2000 individuals, **Slate-colored Juncos** being 12% of them, and **Common Meadow-larks** a bit more than that. A single **Bufflehead** was unusual. Seventy-three **Mourning Doves** were found in two concentrations of 42 and 26, plus a few scattered. **American Robins** (10) were not to be found. Last year they were estimated above 850. Compiler: M. H. Barney. C. D. Benbow, J. W. E. Joyner.

**SALISBURY, N. C.** Not previously covered. This count: 44/3. Centering on the city square, includes area along Grant's Creek, High Rock Lake, and areas east and south. Dec. 28, cloudy to overcast, temp. 42°-52°. Total individuals about 1010. One party. **Herring Gulls** (12) and **Ring-billed Gulls** (7), are noteworthy. There was but 1 **Robin**. **Slate-colored Juncos** outnumbered all others by hundreds (339). **Mourning Doves** were estimated at 130. **Field Sparrows** were plentiful (80). Both **Kinglets** were found.

Two Savannah Sparrows were seen. The other species were about usual for the area. Future expanded coverage will swell both species and individuals. Recorder: R. H. Blair. Thom W. Blair, Thom W. Blair, Jr.

SANTEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE, S. C. Five year score: ...; ...; ...; 75/1; 70/1. Jan. 1, partly cloudy, temp. 32°-60°. Same area as last year. (Some counts were made prior to 1949). One observer: Robert J. Lemaire. Over 12,000 individuals; eighty per cent of these were geese and ducks. The breakdown: Canada Goose, 660; Mallard, 235; Black Duck, 54; Gadwall, 1350; American Widgeon, 2300; Pintail, 2050, Green-winged Teal, 400; Shoveller, 13; Wood Duck, 2; Redhead, 8; Ring-necked Duck, 425; Bufflehead, 1; Ruddy Duck, 6. The figures above 1000 are shown plus or minus 100. Coots were estimated at 1250. Other species normal to the area were well represented. One **Gray-cheeked Thrush** is noteworthy. One was found in the Wilmington count. Field Sparrows (173), were the most abundant of that group.

TODD, N. C. One previous count - 1952: 25/5. This count, 21/5. Jan. 3, temp. 24°-42°. Strong wind up to 40 m.p.h. Ground frozen at higher altitudes. Same area as last year. Individuals, 237. Two parties. An Osprey was probably the most unusual bird of the count. Bob-whites, included last year, were not found again. Towhees were less abundant and so were Juncos - probably due to the high wind. Compiler: Mrs. A. Burman Hurt. I. W. Carpenter, J. Leon Coulter, James Miller, Jack Neal.

WILMINGTON, N. C. Five year score; 136/22; 147/16; 141/14; 142/15; 162/15. Dec. 28, cloudy all day, temp. 41°-58°. Area unchanged. Seven parties. Total individuals about 24,700, about twice last year's figure. Only three species above 1000: Canada Goose, 1050; Ring-billed Gull, 1010; Red-winged Blackbirds, 8,200. Best finds: a **Whistling Swan**, near Orton's Pond (E. Appleberry, M. Baker, and Messenger); **American Brant** (McAllister and Butters); Barn Swallows (15); **Gray-cheeked Thrush** (Funderburg, S. Baker). **Black and White Warbler** (Holmes); **Prairie Warbler** (Holmes); Orange-crowned Warblers (5 - Holmes, Messenger, Mebane in widely separated areas). A Peregrine Falcon and a Pectoral Sandpiper should also be noted. Compiler: Edna Appleberry. Cecil Appleberry, Mary Baker, Sam Baker, Tom Butters, Clifford Comeau, John Funderburg, Bob Holmes, III, Bill James, Claude McAllister, Don McAllister, Polly Mebane, Steve Messenger, Mary Urich, Marie Vander Schalie (Wilmington Natural Science Club.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C. Five year score: 53/12; 54/19; 62/11; 54/8; 61/14. Jan. 2, clear, temp. 30°-57°. Some ice in the morning. Area same as in previous counts. Six parties. About 7,700 individuals. Highest individual count, Starlings (5000), next highest, Slate-colored Juncos (380). One hundred-thirty Canada Geese were seen. Last year's figure was 370. Horned Larks numbered about 100. Both Kinglets were found. Compiler: Edward B. Kissam. W. B. Cromer, Mrs. W. S. Ellington, Mr. and Mrs. John Gatewood, Mrs. E. B. Gatewood, Mrs. E. B. Kissam, Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, Lucia Simpson, Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spencer, J. L. Stephenson, R. N. White, Mrs. Wortham Wyatt.

(The Columbia and Charleston, S. C. counts were late getting in so do not appear on the spot map on page 6.—Ed.)

—B. R. C., *Matthews, N. C., Jan. 18, 1954.*

Mr. and Mrs. Julian Hankinson, Rt. 3, Spartanburg, S. C., good friends of mine, have 500 pounds of Giant Russian ungraded sunflower seeds to sell. 5 lb.—\$1.50; 10 lb.—\$2.55; 25 lb.—\$5.50.—Ed.

---

Man feels himself an infinity above those creatures who stand, zoologically, only one step below him, but every human being looks up to the birds. They seem to us like emissaries of another world which exist about us and above us, but into which, earth-bound, we cannot penetrate.—E. C. KEITH.



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAVER, Department Editor

Albinism or partial albinism in various species of birds makes an interesting subject for study in backyard birding. In complete albinism, we are told by Dr. T. L. Quay, of the Zoology Department of North Carolina State College, that the hereditary determiner for color is entirely absent so the bird is all white. With partial albinism, the color determiner, or gene, is present and active, but something prevents the carrying out of the process in local areas. The order goes through to all parts, but something along the line (chemical determiner, process, or group of cells) fails in its duty, and we have a bird that is normally colored in some of its plumage but is white or light-colored in the remainder. Naturally, these white or off-colored birds are very conspicuous, and always cause much excitement when located. The first one I ever saw was a white Junco in the yard of Mrs. Julian Buxton's home in Sumter, S. C., about two years ago. That same year, I received many reports of a white blackbird having been seen in a large flock on the broad pastures of the Wateree Hereford Farm near by. I went several times to look for the bird but never did find that particular group of birds. There are many House Sparrows here in the town of Eastover, and on two occasions we have caught glimpses of a partial albino as a flock flew over our office. This bird seemed to be mostly white about the body, with the wings, head and tail of the normal color.

Mr. G. R. MacCarthy, of Chapel Hill, sent in the following item:

Late in the afternoon of November 1, 1953, a partial albino Robin visited our feeding station. It was regular "robin color" on its head, wings and tail. There was some red on its breast, but the body, under the wings, across the shoulders, and the lower back of the neck were snow white. I attempted to photograph it, but it got away before I could get my camera unlimbered. This was the only time we saw this bird, and—so far as I can find out—it has not been seen by any other members of the Chapel Hill Bird Club.

Mr. Tolliver Crunkleton of Highlands, N. C., reports that on June 21, 1953 he had entered the following paragraph in his record book concerning a Brown Thrasher that had been hatched in his yard: "Brown Thrasher—white on forehead and neck. Slate-blue elsewhere, except primaries and tail, dull brown. Eye, greenish gray. Faint dusky streaks below. Seems to have difficulty in moving about." It disappeared from his feeding station about a week after he wrote that, and he didn't know what happened to it. He also told of a Towhee that was all gray on one side, the other side being

of normal color. (This gentleman says that the writers of bird books should mention that young Brown Thrashers are *blue-eyed*! Does everyone agree?)

Mr. Harry Hampton of Columbia, S. C., in his column *Woods and Waters* in the *Columbia State*, told this fall of having seen a partial albino Bluebird. He said that it was blue on the back, with the reddish breast of the Bluebird, but the head was white and seemed to have some spots or streaks on it. There also seemed to be some white around the rump where it should not be. This bird was seen twice by Mr. Hampton and his family.

About three years ago in the early summer, Mrs. Ed Henderson saw a partial albino Carolina Wren in her yard at 1615 Valley Road, Columbia, S. C. It was an immature and was very light in color, almost beige to greyish, with the normal rusty brown coloration showing on the tips of the wing feathers. It was with three other young Wrens all of which were in the ordinary plumage. Mrs. Henderson watched it for several days and then collected it and gave it to the University of South Carolina at Columbia, S. C., for its collection in the new LeConte Building.

From New Bern, N. C., Judge Henry A. Grady gives us a glimpse of bird watching from a legal slant:

My home is on a long, narrow ridge, which extends from the public road to the Neuse River. There is a deep ravine on the north and south sides of my house, and to the south of me is a dense forest. In the tall pines just over the southern ravine there is a colony of Crows. I have made friends with them as far as possible, and they come into my yard at times, without any apparent fear, for I let no one bother them.

Yesterday morning while I was sitting on my front piazza I heard a terrible disturbance among the Crows. I decided that they were either holding an election or court martial. I got my large book, *Birds of America*, and found pretty soon that Crows do in fact hold their courts, condemn prisoners and execute them. I went back to my seat and listened in on the performance. Witness after witness testified, the presiding judge would make remarks at times, and finally there came a verdict from the jury, and I knew that the prisoner had been condemned. My book says that when the jury decides against a prisoner that a committee is appointed to execute him, and they do this, first by picking his eyes out, then they jump on him and he is soon liquidated.

Now, for my question: This particular prisoner, so it appeared later on, was a stranger who had attempted to join the colony without a passport, and without naturalization papers. The executioners were not able to handle him, and he got away. I know that to be true for he came across my yard with the speed of a jet plane. The thing that attracted my attention was his color. Normally, crows are black, as everyone knows. But this Crow had two wide white bands going around his body, one just under his wings, with the other about two inches further back. Did you ever hear of such a thing?

Sketch by WILL HON



## BOOKS

*A Guide to Bird Finding West of the Mississippi.* Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. xxiv 709 pp.; illus. with line drawings by George M. Sutton. \$6.00. Oxford University Press, N. Y. 1953. In this companion volume to his *Guide to Bird Finding East of the Mississippi* (*Chat* 16(1), March, 1952), Pettingill maintains the same high standards of accuracy, descriptiveness, usefulness, and readability established in the earlier work. The travelling bird watcher may now carry a ready guide to ornithological adventure anywhere in the United States.

For each state there are descriptions of the physiographic regions, natural areas, and communities, lists of both the characteristic and especially distinctive birds and where and how to find them, directions to special birding spots and what to see there, migration dates, aggregation points, where to stay, whom to see, and even references to the literature. Dr. Pettingill's *Guides* will not only save much time and effort for seasoned travellers but should also encourage others to go more often on out-of-state birding trips. Pettingill says, "Whereas I once believed that there were only a few states with truly exciting places to find birds, I now know that every state encompasses at least several spots waiting to enrich a bird finder's quest for the interesting and the unusual. All in all, there are enough places in our nation, each peculiarly inviting, to keep the bird finder 'on the go' for a lifetime."—T.L.Q.

*Birds as Individuals.* Len Howard. 219 pp.; illus. with 32 full-page photographs by Eric Hosking. \$4.00. Doubleday and Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y. 1953. This is an amazing, almost incredible, book, yet favorable comments and reviews by outstanding authorities, and the ring of the book itself, leave no doubt of its full authenticity.

Miss Howard lives in the country and has that rare ability of living and moving among birds without their being afraid of her. She has thus watched and studied their normal behavior under *fearless* conditions. This is a great scientific and artistic achievement, and the results give us an absorbing unusually valuable story. Miss Howard has learned that birds display considerably greater individual differences and manifestations of intelligence than has ordinarily been supposed. She learned to know generation after generation of individual birds at sight and without any markings or bands. Her birds roosted in her house, searched out her food supplies, landed on her fingers as she typed, and even played games with her. I unreservedly recommend this book both as entertaining reading and scientific literature, and hope that everyone in the Carolina Bird Club will come to know it.—T.L.Q.

*An Album of Southern Birds.* Photographs by Samuel A. Grimes. Text by Alexander Sprunt, Jr. 103 pp., 9 x 12 inches. University of Texas Press, Austin, Texas. 1953. Samuel Grimes is perhaps the best-known photographer of birds in the southern states. He lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and gets out to "luck-up" and photograph birds and their nests as often as his engraving business will allow him. In this volume are brought together 103 different full-page photographs, 4 in color, of distinctively southern birds, all by Mr. Grimes. Nearly every picture is at or near the nest, with both adults and young or eggs, and each attests to the skill and patience of the photographer. Other photographers will appreciate the full information with each photograph on camera, lens, opening, and speed.

Alexander Sprunt has written a warm and revealing introductory biographical sketch of his great friend, Sam Grimes. Mr. Sprunt's vividly descriptive captions catch the essence of each bird, as: WATER TURKEY—Remnant of the Age of Reptiles, the Snakebird is almost a modern ichthyornis. A strange, silent dweller in cypress gloom and willow swamp—remote, fantastic, unearthly. SWAINSON'S WARBLERS—Elusive phantoms of swampy lowlands, their ringing song drifts eerily over blue palmetto, cane, and cypress, ever luring one on into the shadowy fastnesses.—T.L.Q.



# PEA ISLAND WILDLIFE REFUGE



*Photograph by Gordon H. Brown, Courtesy of S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept.*

## Midwinter Field Trip At Pea Island

The twenty-eight hardy CBC members who journeyed to the North Carolina Outer Banks for the mid-winter field trip at Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge were amply rewarded with perfect weather and with the thrill that comes from watching Gannets by the hundred and Snow Geese by the thousand, not to mention the jeep and truck trips around the fresh-water ponds where rafts of Coots, Ruddy Ducks, Pintails and Canada Geese abounded. Interspersed among the smaller fowl were 150 Whistling Swans.

Some of us watched three Otter playing about in the water and saw several long Otter slides on the dikes. A short distance away we came upon a Muskrat eating at the water's edge.

The Refuge officials, who were our companions and guides on the island, showed us a goose trap, and explained how it is baited and operated. About 200 geese have been trapped, weighed sexed and banded this season.

Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is within the newly-formed Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area and can now be reached by hard-surfaced road, except for the ferry, "The Governor Umstead" at Oregon Inlet. Hunting is permitted in some parts of the Recreational Area, but is not permitted in the Refuge or its adjacent closed waters, according to present laws.

The Carolinian Hotel at Nags Head provided plenty of rest and good food. The driftwood-decorated dining room drew many comments, and probably inspired the large collection of driftwood brought back in the truck by bird watchers.

This was without question one of the best field trips we have ever had. Bob Wolff, Field Trip Chairman, did a splendid job in making arrangements, and we regret that he could not be with us at the Refuge on January 2. All who did make the trip vowed to return to this section of the Outer Banks sometime soon, where Snow Geese winter and Old Christmas is celebrated.

—ROBERT OVERING



# The Status of Migratory Hawks in the Carolinas

THOMAS W. SIMPSON

Interest in the migration of hawks through eastern North America has been stimulated by the discovery of phenomenal flights at certain concentration points along mountain ridges and coastal peninsulas. Some of these points, like Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania and Cape May, New Jersey, became known to gunners who turned them into scenes of carnage during the fall migrations. In latter years, organized hawk-shooting has been discouraged to some extent by the establishment of sanctuary areas at these crucial points, where birds of prey coming from extensive areas in eastern Canada and the northeastern United States would converge into vulnerable flocks and meet mass destruction in the narrow flight lane along the ridges or sand dunes. (1). Continued observations in the New England and Middle Atlantic states over the past decade, with careful tabulation of hawks passing certain vantage points, have been rewarded by the recognition of definite flyways. Recently these studies have been coordinated on a state-wide and regional basis under the direction of Chandler S. Robbins, present editor of *Audubon Field Notes*. Participation of observers in the southeastern states began in 1949, when Fred W. Behrend and others of the Tennessee Ornithological Society made their first systematic search for hawks migrating through that state. In 1951, a group was organized for the same purpose in South Carolina by William P. VanEseltine. The cooperative effort was extended to include North Carolina in 1952, through the endeavors of Thomas L. Quay and the writer. Activities of these groups have been summarized in several previous contributions (2, 3, 4, 5, 6). Although most of the data on hawk migration refers to the Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, and its fall migration in the mountains, it is felt that attention can be given to other species, times and places. The following background material is presented as an attempt to orient further study of migratory birds of prey in the Carolinas and adjacent states.

## Evidence of Hawk Migration from Seasonal Distribution Records

Sight and collection records of hawks from various localities throughout the year, aside from the observation of mass flights in obvious migration, may be used to evaluate the migratory status of each species. A marked seasonal fluctuation in the abundance of a species may be taken, with some reservations, to indicate a migratory shifting of the population into or away from the region. Information contained in the standard works on the bird life of North Carolina (7) and South Carolina (8), supplemented by check-lists for Georgia (9) and Virginia (10), shows that our recorded birds of prey may be grouped in the following manner:

(a) *Permanent breeding residents*, possibly wandering but without striking seasonal fluctuation in abundance: Probably only the Turkey Vulture and, except in the mountains, the Black Vulture. Even these probably migrate.

(b) *Permanent breeding residents*, but with considerably augmented numbers in winter (implying migration of individuals into the region from elsewhere): Sharp-shinned Hawk (rare in summer), Cooper's Hawk, Red-

tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and Sparrow Hawk (rare on coastal plain in summer).

(c) *Permanent breeding residents*, but less numerous in winter (implying migration of individuals away from the region without replacement): Osprey (nesting along coast in summer, transient elsewhere throughout year).

(d) *Summer breeding residents*, with migration of almost entire population elsewhere in winter: Swallow-tailed Kite (uncommon along coast, rare elsewhere), Mississippi Kite (fairly common coastal S. C., much less common elsewhere), Broad-winged Hawk (chiefly piedmont and mountains), Peregrine Falcon (mountains).

(e) *Transients and Winter Residents*, migrating through the Carolinas and some individuals loitering all winter: White-tailed Kite (accidental in S. C.), Harlan's Hawk (accidental in S. C.), Swainson's Hawk (accidental in S. C.), Roughlegged Hawk (rare), Golden Eagle (rare), Bald Eagle (nests in late winter and early spring along coast, transient inland), Audubon's Caracara (accidental in S. C.), Peregrine Falcon (status outside of mountains), and Pigeon Hawk. Goshawk reported from Virginia in winter, but no conclusive records from the Carolinas.

The single glaring omission is the presence of the Broad-winged Hawk as a fall migrant, in the mountains of North Carolina at least, often in astounding numbers. It is most remarkable that this fact escaped the notice of observers and went unrecorded, to the knowledge of the writer, until 1950 (11).

It may be inferred from the above arrangement that virtually all of our recorded species are subject to seasonal population shifts and may therefore be regarded as "migratory" in some degree\*. However, for more precise information one must turn to methods other than analysis of distribution data.

### Recognition of Migratory Subspecies

A sharply limited approach is that of identifying races of certain species, such as the Red-shouldered Hawk and the Sparrow Hawk, which come from elsewhere to add their numbers to the resident race at some seasons. Thus, *Buteo lineatus lineatus* has been taken in South Carolina only from Sept. 23 to April 16 (8), indicating a southward migration of this subspecies during the colder months to augment the resident population of *Buteo l. alleni*. While the smaller race of Sparrow Hawk, *Falco sparverius paulus*, is a rare permanent resident of coastal South Carolina, almost all of the winter hawks are migrant *Falco s. sparverius*.

### Recovery of Banded Migrant Hawks

Banding would appear to be a highly specific means of tracing migrant hawks. Yet, hawks cannot be banded in large numbers as a rule, like those species which nest in colonies or roost in aggregate flocks. Hawk nests are often almost inaccessible and nestlings few. Recovery is likewise difficult, since they cannot (or certainly should not) be collected in large numbers, as would be permissible with water fowl and game birds in season, or with undesirable species. For these reasons, banding has not been particularly helpful in studying hawk migration. A notable exception is the splendid work of Charles Broley in tracing the migrations of Bald Eagles

\* The technical term "Permanent Resident" denotes that individuals of the species may be found throughout the year, but does not necessarily reflect the seasonal distribution of the bulk of the population. It would appear to be a term of limited usefulness, which often obscures the status of true migrants.

by means of the banding technique. His work is well known, and, although several of his records pertain to the Carolinas, no further mention need be made here. Aside from this highly significant contribution, only a handful of banding records are found in our regional literature. These involve the Turkey Vulture (8), Red-tailed Hawk (7), Red-shouldered hawk (7), Osprey (7), Marsh Hawk (12), and Sparrow Hawk (8). All except the latter refer to birds banded during the spring and early summer in states to the north and recovered in the spring in North or South Carolina. The Osprey record, if accurate, is of additional interest in that the bird was reportedly banded on Gardiner's Island, New York, June 15, 1914, and recovered nearly *sixteen* years later, on April 4, 1930, at West Durham, N. C. Sparrow Hawks banded in Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey have been recovered in winter in South Carolina (8).

### Observations of Mass Flights

Though subject to definite handicaps, such as the difficulty of having observers in the right place at the right time, this approach to the problem of hawk migration has certainly been the most immediately rewarding. It depends entirely on finding vantage points from which the passing migrants can be watched. Such observations can hardly be made except during the daylight hours and fortunately, diurnal migration appears to be an attribute of hawks and their allies. Observations of hawks in flight are, of course, only significant when a given species appears in substantially increased numbers during the migration season. Most significant are definite flocks seen passing in the same direction along a recognizable pathway, such as a coastline or a series of connecting mountain ridges.

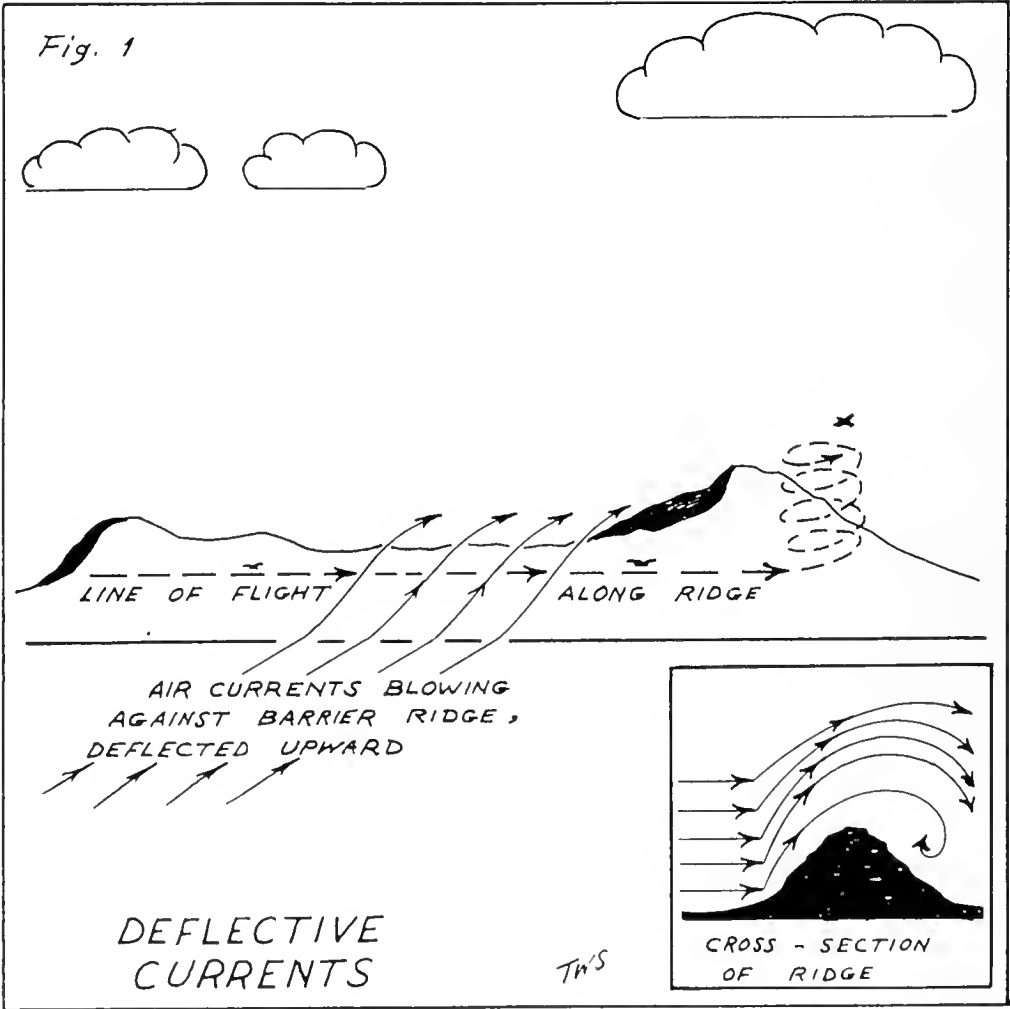
### Broad-winged Hawk Flights in the Mountains

When the cooperative studies on hawk migration were extended into the Southeastern states, it seemed desirable to place emphasis on the Broad-winged Hawk flights. In the first place, the largest single aggregations of migrating hawks seen from favorable vantage points in more northern states were always Broad-wings. For example, during twelve seasons at Hawk Mountain (1934-1942, 1946-1948), Dr. Maurice Broun tabulated 75,207 Broad-wings, or 41.86% of the total number of 15 species. Flight lanes of this species had been traced from New England into Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and West Virginia. Since Broad-wings are known to winter in the tropics of Central and South America, it seemed apparent that the flight lanes continued across the Southeastern states, probably to the Gulf of Mexico. Observers therefore expected to find large flocks of Broad-wings in the southern Appalachians during the last half of September. There has been abundant confirmation of this, up to a point. Flocks of Broad-wings have been reported regularly during the last four years, in flight down the Clinch Mountain from Virginia into northwestern Tennessee, and along the Appalachians at the boundary between Tennessee and North Carolina, at least as far south as the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The first reported observation of a mass flight of Broad-winged Hawks in North Carolina known to the writer is that of W. M. Johnson (11). This observer, a member of the Tennessee Ornithological Society from

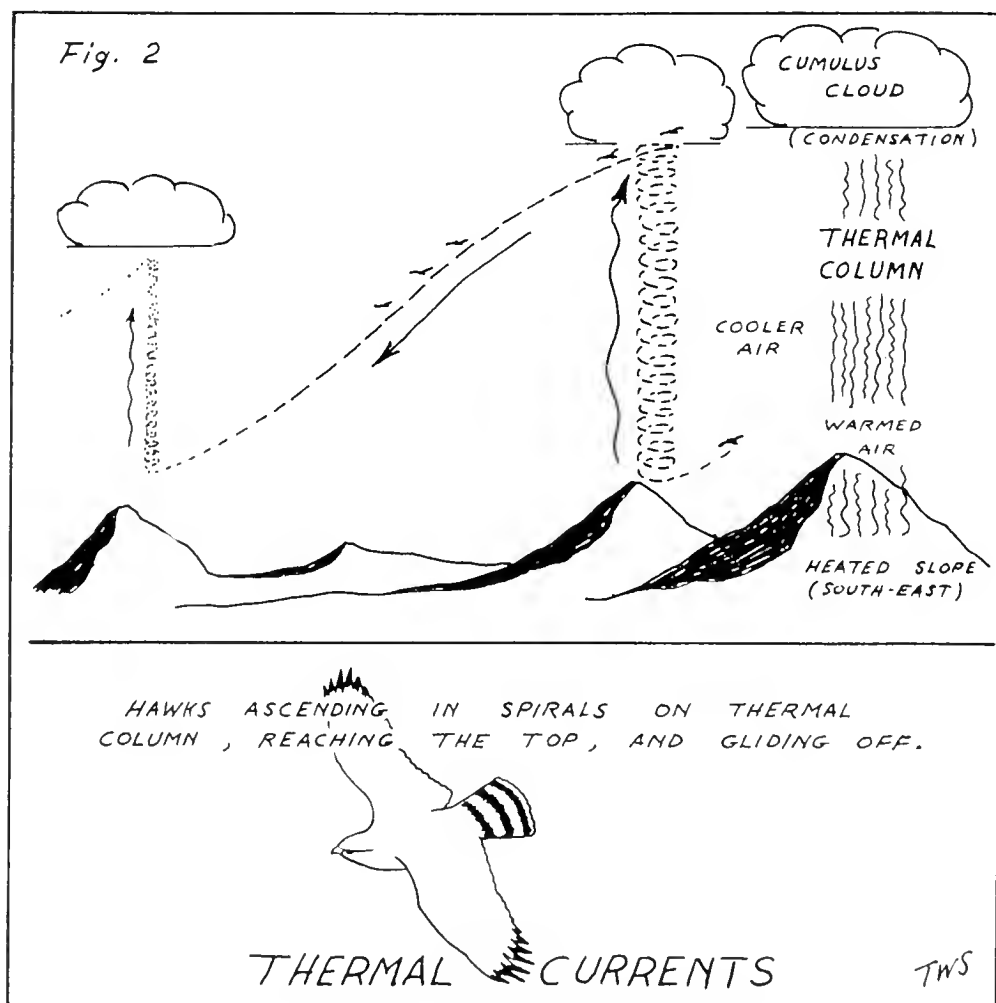
Knoxville, describes the soaring of several flocks over the Blue Ridge Parkway between Little Switzerland and Mount Mitchell on September 25, 1950. A total of 2,322 Broad-wings were counted, with the largest group numbering 450.

C. W. Senne of the National Park Service, in a letter to Dr. Maurice Broun, dated September 9, 1952 and later forwarded to the writer, states: "I was on the Blue Ridge Parkway on the afternoon of September 24, 1950. The weather was fair and warm. There must have been at least two thousand (2,000) Broad-winged hawks coming over Mt. Mitchell from the northeast and heading in a southwesterly direction. The time was between 4 and 5 p. m. EST, and the hawks were flying at levels of from 100 feet above the ground level to several hundred feet altitudes. The hawks were positively identified as Broad-wings." This observation and the one made on the next day by W. M. Johnson and party, noted above, gave the first indication that a flyway existed in the Blue Ridge portion of the southern Appalachians. In 1952, Behrend reported 128 Broad-wings near Table Rock Mountain and Johnson reported 160 near Mount Mitchell, on September 25 and 29, respectively. In 1952, 120 Broad-wings were sighted by the writer and Mrs. Simpson at Doughton Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, as they left a roost and began to soar on thermal up-



drafts. Reports of flocks numbering 29 at Highlands by Tolliver Crunkle-Both of these localities lie near the North Carolina - Georgia line at the southern terminus of the Appalachians. These points represent the farthest extension of the flight lanes in North Carolina, leading directly into upper South Carolina and Georgia. In addition to the above localities, numerous observers in 1952 (including 108 attending the fall meeting on the Blue Ridge Parkway) reported Broad-winged Hawks in small flocks, soaring on thermals in a southwesterly direction along migration lanes. Again in 1953, similar observations confirmed the presence of a Broad-wing flight lane down the Blue Ridge. Especially impressive have been the consistent flights at Doughton Park and Thunder Hill on the Blue Ridge Parkway. Reports of Broad-wings from North Carolina exclusive of the mountains and from South Carolina have not related to mass flights in obvious migration.

. The best Broad-wing flights at Hawk Mountain and other points along the Kittatinny Ridge in New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey have been associated with strong northwesterly winds. These favorable winds occur in the presence of a low pressure system to the north, attended by cyclonic (or counter-clockwise) circulation of air currents. These winds, blowing against a barrier ridge, produce strong updrafts or "deflective



ton and 98 at Brasstown by Mrs. Lynn Gault were of particular interest. currents", which are utilized by hawks in soaring parallel to the ridge (Fig. 1).

Once a flight has started, the hawks appear to seek out unerringly the most adaptable course. Observations in our regions would seem to indicate a rather diffuse flyway consisting of numerous possible lanes of travel, depending on prevailing conditions of wind and other weather conditions. This lack of consistency probably accounts for the sporadic records of mass flights at any one point in the southern Appalachians.

In contrast to close-in flight on deflective currents, most hawk flights reported in our region have appeared to utilize "thermal currents". These are produced in the morning hours, as the sun heats the southeastern mountain slopes. Columns of warmed air ascend through the cooler surrounding layers persisting over shaded slopes. At a variable height, the warm air condenses in the cold upper atmosphere, producing a small cumulus cloud formation at the top of the "thermal". Hawks soar on a deflective current, or flap under their own power, into the base of a thermal column and then ascend on fixed wings in easy spirals. After several minutes, they have become small silhouettes nearly lost in the cloud at the top. Then, one by one, they leave the sustaining column and assume a long, flat glide which will carry them several miles into the base of another thermal current. (Fig. 2).

### Migration of Other Hawks on the Mountain Flyways

Several other species of hawks have been reported in apparent migration, usually along the same general pathway as the Broad-wings. Most frequently seen are the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, and Sparrow Hawk. Peregrine Falcons and Pigeon Hawks have both been reported in fair numbers and Dr. J. J. Murray observed a "migration flight" of 35 Pigeon Hawks at Blowing Rock, with Alexander Sprunt, Jr., on August 31, 1932 (13). Ospreys and Bald Eagles have been seen occasionally along the Blue Ridge Parkway in the fall. These records will be evaluated and reported when a sufficient number accumulates.

### Coastal and Off-Shore Flyways

It seems evident from sporadic reports that certain accipiters and falcons occur in migration along the Atlantic coast of the Carolinas. Sprunt and Chamberlain (8), in reference to the Pigeon Hawk, state, "South-bound fall flights are particularly noticeable along the barrier beaches, often at some distance from land. As an example, a steady though not great flight including Pigeon and Cooper's Hawks was noted on October 9, 1944, some 75 miles offshore, headed toward Charleston (F.F. Newman)". H. G. Deignan (14) reported Pigeon Hawks on the Outer Banks of North Carolina during the week of September 17-23, 1950, "as many as five or six seen daily throughout the week, flying southward over the dunes at Nags Head." D. F. Crossan and R. A. Stephenson, Jr. (15) state that Peregrine Falcons may be found regularly on the Outer Banks during migration in September and October and many remain during the winter. They add, "In addition to the Peregrines, during the latter part

of September 1951, mass flights of Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen over a three day period along the banks in the vicinity of Nags Head, N. C." These reports indicate the need for methodical observations on the coastal islands during the migration seasons. There is a strong possibility that significant hawk flights occur regularly off-shore, within view of observers on fishing and pleasure craft.

This paper is a summary of current knowledge and not a tabulation of census data. For this reason the hundred-odd observers who contributed their records in 1952 and 1953 will not be acknowledged by name. We hope that our 1954 studies will yield results which will warrant a statistical tabulation. Contributors should be listed as a group in this paper, which would represent a true project report.—*Winston-Salem, N. C.—Jan. 16, 1954.*

#### REFERENCES

1. Broun, Maurice. *Hawks Aloft: The Story of Hawk Mountain*. Dodd, Mead Company. New York, N. Y. 1948.
2. Behrend, Fred W. Fall Migrations of Hawks in 1951. *The Migrant* 22:53-57 (Dec.) 1951.
3. ————. Fall Migrations of Hawks in 1952. *The Migrant* 23:62-65 (Dec.) 1952.
4. VanEseltine, William P. A Hawk Migration Project for the Carolinas. *The Chat* 16:6 (Mar.) 1952.
5. Simpson, Thomas W. The Coming Season for Hawk Watching in the Carolinas. *The Chat* 16:66 (Sept.) 1952.
6. ————. A Preliminary Note on the 1952 Hawk Migration Project. *The Chat* 16:92 (Dec.) 1952.
7. Pearson, T. Gilbert, Brimley, C. S., and Brimley, H. H. *Birds of North Carolina*. Revised Edition. North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Raleigh, N. C. 1952.
8. Sprunt, Alexander, Jr., and Chamberlain, E. Burnham. *South Carolina Bird Life*. University of South Carolina Press. Columbia, S. C. 1949.
9. Greene, Earle R., Griffin, William W., Odum, Eugene P., Stoddard, Herbert L., and Tompkins, Ivan R. *Birds of Georgia: A Preliminary Check-List and Bibliography of Georgia Ornithology*. The University of Georgia Press. Athens, Ga. 1945.
10. Murray, Joseph James. *A Check-List of the Birds of Virginia*. Virginia Society of Ornithology. 1952.
11. Johnson, W. M. Migrating Hawks. (A mimeographed circular distributed to members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society by the author) Knoxville, Tenn. 1950.
12. Smithwick, J. W. P. Marsh Hawk from Illinois. *The Chat* 16:47 (June) 1952.
13. Murray, Joseph James. Some North Carolina Bird Notes. *The Chat* 10:32-34 (Mar.) 1946.
14. Deignan, H. G. Bird Notes from the Banks of Dare County. *The Chat* 15:14 (Jan.) 1951.
15. Crossan, D. F., and Stephenson, R. A., Jr. Hawk Migrations Along the Middle Eastern Seaboard, Delaware to North Carolina. Unpublished manuscript. 1953.

---

#### CBC Spring Meeting Notice

The annual Spring Meeting of the CBC will be held in High Point, N. C., on March 20, at the Y. M. C. A., 401 South Main St. There will be a field trip at 6:30 a.m. Registration 9:00 a.m., fee 25 cents. Business sessions and papers will be presented both in the morning and afternoon. A tour of wild flower gardens and a coffee hour will start at 4:00 p. m. The annual dinner will be at 7:00 p. m., in the YMCA. Please send dinner reservations (\$1.65) by Wednesday, March 17, to Miss Barbara Brooks, Chamber of Commerce, High Point, N. C. Hotel Accommodations: (1) Sheraton Hotel—single room with bath \$4.00 up, double room (twin beds) with bath \$8.00 up; Elwood Hotel—single room with bath \$4.00 up, double room (twin beds) with bath \$7 50 up. Further details and the program will be sent in the *Newsletter*.



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

**Notes on North Carolina Coastal Colonies**—On July 6 to 11, 1953, D. L. Wray, Phillips Russell, John Gray and the writer made a trip to the Pea Island - Cape Hatteras area. From Jack Ballance, Dare County Game Protector, we learned of a large colony of Laughing Gulls nesting on Durants Island, near the Dare County "mainland." He had no definite knowledge of other colonies.

Arriving at the north side of Oregon Inlet, we found that the open sand area that had a considerable colony of Black Skimmers last summer was deserted except for two nests of Common Terns.

After a two hour wait we got the Ferry and noted that the usual large colony of Laughing Gulls were nesting on Green Island, off our starboard bow.

We reached Pea Island Station (once Coast Guard) where live Assistant Refuge Manager and Mrs. Phillips. Here we rode out some severe lightning displays that shattered the kitchen chimney. We later took up residence at Tobe Tillet's modern camp at the south side of Oregon Inlet.

Next morning our objective was Rookery Island where in past years we had banded hundreds of Royal Terns. The area was much eroded by wind and wave, with no Royal Terns. One young Common Tern was banded and a merganser escaped our clutches. We found 2 Least Tern nests with eggs.

We poled our boat a mile south to Jacks Island and the nearby scores of acres of marsh lands. The latter were cut by winding ditch-like creeks and slues, and along these, water-bush had grown about three feet above the usual saw-grass and rushes. In the bushes we found 32 occupied nests of Black-crowned Night Herons. The young were from flying stage to newly hatched, and we banded 18 of them. Scattered in the marsh areas we also found nests of marsh wrens and grackles.

The outboard motor refused to run and miles of boat poling ended a long day.

We vaguely learned of other colonies of birds to the "southward" around Hatteras. The next objective, on July 9, was to search the flat beach where Cape Hatteras points towards the Diamond Shoals. We found no indication of nesting colonies there.

From this beach we drove ten miles westward to the Village of Hatteras. We learned that Black Skimmers were nesting on the open flat beach



around Gooseville Club, near the Inlet. Due to hot, dry weather, our vehicle would not carry us thru this sand.

At the Buxton Post Office, we learned of a one-eighth acre island in the sound recently made in dredging the harbor. We visited this island that had been locally named Gull Island because the birds were nesting there. On and around the meagre vegetation we found birds estimated as follows: 60 Black Skimmers, 30 Common Terns, 6 Royal Terns, and 2 Cabot Terns, all in flight. Of the young birds we banded 44 Black Skimmer, 3 Common Terns, and 4 Royal Terns.

On July tenth, at Oregon Inlet, we awoke to find a northeast wind driving spray and sand over the beaches. We leaned into this and made our way to some flat ocean beach, near the surf, and here we found nests with young Skimmers and Terns scattered for about two miles on the strand just above the high water mark. The fine sand was sifting before the wind and eggs and young birds were quickly covered when still for a moment. Some of the larger Skimmers stretched our ability to overtake them. Some made off into the roaring surf. We banded 2 adult Skimmers and 35 young, and 5 Common Terns in this area.—HARRY T. DAVIS, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

For comparison with earlier records in this area, Mr. Davis has quoted for us a letter from Game Protector Leon Thomas to Mr. Patton at Raleigh, written in 1940, as follows:

"In regard to your letter of July 2 concerning skimmers and terns, Dr. Pearson was here about the 10th of June, 1939. From New River Inlet to Drum Inlet we found 12 colonies of these birds, with nests ranging from 25 to 100 per colony. A total of all colonies amounted to 1500 to 2000 nests. Dr. Pearson made the statement that the last time he made a count on these birds on this coast about 12 years ago, he found only 20 nests; these were terns - no Skimmers."

Regarding the Pea Island area specifically, D. L. Wray secured from Refuge Manager L. B. Turner the following data, largely on breeding during the 1953 season:

Three broods of Pied-billed Grebes were successful in the North Pond this year, as was one brood in the South Pond. We saw one brood in the North Pond on July 8.

Gadwalls bred extensively on the ponds this year, and a total count of 402, adult and ducklings, was made during the season.

Of Black Ducks, a count of 83 adult and young was made during the spring on the ponds.

Two pair of Ruddy Ducks were seen through the season on the North Pond, in typical breeding plumage.

An adult Golden Eagle was around the Refuge from October 15, 1952 to March 1, 1953. An immature bird of this species was with the adult the previous year.

Willetts bred on the Refuge this season and the young were observed in early July.

Mr. Phillips observed 2 Glossy Ibis on the Refuge during June, 1952. Birds of note observed on July 8, 1953, on the Refuge, by John Gray, Phillips Russell, Mr. Phillips and the writer were:

One Whistling Swan on the North Pond, suggesting a cripple; one adult and one duckling Blue-winged Teal in the North Pond; one Common Gallinule, on North Pond marshes.

The following typical birds were noted on July 8 on North Pond: Black-crowned Night Herons, 40; Snowy Egrets, 20; Willetts, 6; Great Blue Herons, 4; Little Blue Herons, 72.

The following were quite commonplace on the Refuge: Barn Swallow (nesting), Boat-tailed Grackle (nesting), Red-wings, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Thick-billed Plover, Black Skimmers, Laughing Gulls, Common Terns, Least Terns, Tri-colored Herons, 16; Gull-billed Terns, 2; Least Bittern, 4; Long-billed Marsh Wren (6 nests), and Forster's Tern, 1.

Colonies in the Beaufort area were also visited during the summer and commented upon by Holmes as follows:

On Radio Island, formerly Shark Shoal, now adjoining and south of the Beaufort-Morehead City causeway in the mouth of the Newport River, Carteret County, I found that the Skimmer colony this year (1953) was smaller than last year, partly due to accessibility and human interference. The island has been connected with the causeway and a road has been built, and a commercial installation and new homes constructed.

A liberal estimate of the nesting birds this year would be 65 pairs of Skimmers, 12 pairs of Common Terns, 15 pairs of Least Terns, 5 pairs of Thick-billed Plovers, and a few Seaside Sparrows in the higher grass spots. I found one pile of 16 eggs, indicating human interference. The pair of Gull-billed Terns and pair of Oyster-catchers of last year were gone.

The Least Terns nested on the finer white sand in the depressions. The Skimmers and Common Terns nested on the higher points with the surface of the broken shells of darker color. Most of the nests were on the west side of the low elevations, and all were scattered over an area of ten acres or more.

Up Newport River, about a mile north of the causeway, I visited a heron colony on Factory Island, once a Menhaden factory site, that has now grown up to cedars and other small trees. I visited this on July 22 when most of the young birds were flying, and good estimates were difficult. I found Little Blue and Tri-colored Herons, Snowy and Common Egrets, and Black-crowned Night and Green Herons, listed in the order of their abundance. My count was about 150 adult birds with a number of juveniles walking and climbing about the higher limbs of the trees. I found a pair of Clapper Rails in the grassy border, with one downy young. The hurricane "Barbara" of August 12 and 13 probably was late enough to do little damage in these colonies.

Of the young birds found, I banded 45 Black Skimmers, 3 Common Terns and 2 Least Terns on Radio Island; and one Clapper Rail and 5 Little Blue Herons on Factory Island.—ROBERT HOLMES, III, *Mt. Olive, N. C.*

**Notes on Interior Colonies.**—With Harry Davis, the writer met Jim Stephens at Lumberton, N. C., on June 30, 1953. We first visited Mr. Stephens's experimental areas where he is successfully rearing wild ducks and geese in confined small areas. Then the writer and Mr. Stephens went through the woods path, or backdoor route, to the rookery on Lennons Marsh. There were fresh alligator trails along this route. Jim reported that the White Ibis came to this rookery in considerable numbers this spring, but he found no evidence of their nesting this year. On our visit we found about 45 nests of Little Blue Herons in all stages from fresh eggs to well-feathered young, about ready to fly. We saw two Great Blue Herons, but no identifiable nest. At a roadside pond nearby we observed Little Blue Herons in white, blue and piebald plumage. On one of the sandy roads we came upon a large Canebrake Rattlesnake. We procured a bag, let the reptile crawl in it and brought him back to the Museum.—D. L. WRAY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

A letter from Robert Wolff, written Oct. 11, 1953, tells us that the Plymouth colony in Washington County has been wiped out. His account follows:

"There were over one thousand active nests in 1952. Prior to that season, Ken Trowbridge and Peter Leavitt, High School students in Plymouth, built an observation platform in a tall pine that gave an excellent view of the nesting birds. Weekly observations were made. In 1953, about two weeks after the first nests were constructed, and a few eggs laid, a gang of lumbermen moved in and felled all usable timber. For about three weeks following this, a few herons were seen in and out of the tract of woods, but no nests were used. The new nesting site, if any, was not located during the season."

**Blue Goose Record for Upper Piedmont, S. C.**—An immature Blue Goose was seen on October 19, 1953, by Prof. and Mrs. Gaston Gage of Clemson grazing on fescue grass near the shore of the Excelsior Finishing Plant pond 2 miles southwest of Clemson. On several trips I confirmed the Gage's initial identification. The goose stayed at the pond for at least 5 days. At this same pond on October 21, Mrs. Wade and I saw one American Coot (rare in this part of South Carolina), 5 Blue-winged Teal, 3 Green-winged Teal, 5 Black Ducks, 2 Horned Grebes in winter plumage and one Pied-billed Grebe. During the past 2 winters I have seen only 3 Horned Grebes in the Clemson area. The rarity of Blue Goose records in the upper Piedmont make the Gage's record noteworthy.—DOUGLAS WADE, *Clemson, S. C.*

**Early Arrival Records for Canada Goose in Upper Piedmont, S. C.**—Sprunt and Chamberlain on page 107 of *South Carolina Bird Life*, list "October 7 to May 1" as the wintering dates for Canada Geese in South Carolina. On September 28, 1952, I obtained a count of about 60 Canada Geese on Lake Issaqueena 6 miles north of Clemson, S. C. Canada Geese were seen for the next 5 days on the lake. On October 7, 1953, W. H. Purser and Waddy McFall of Clemson saw 13 Canada Geese on Lake Issaqueena, and 2 days later I saw 11 Canada Geese on the lake.—DOUGLAS WADE, *Clemson, S. C.*

**Swallow-tailed Kite in Mountains**—In view of the publication of the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides f. forficatus*) in Pitt County, N. C. last May (1953) by R. L. Wolff (*Chat* 17:93, 1953,) the following should be of interest. Through correspondence with my brother James, of Raleigh, I am informed that on October 17, 1953, a single specimen of this kite was watched for some time over a lake at High Hampton, Jackson County, N. C., by William L. Pressly of Atlanta, Ga.

Since this species is usually a rather early migrant as well as being very definitely uncommon in interior Carolina (North or South), both the locality and date are of more than passing interest. In South Carolina, the nearest approach to the mountains at which this species has been observed is Gaffney, Cherokee County, (Mar. 10, 1937).—ALEXANDER SPRUNT, Jr., *The Crescent, Charleston* 50, S. C.

**Osprey Behavior.** — Lower Cape Fear River; warm and very foggy; Nov. 30, 1953. Four of us, my brother Edgar Baker, Bruce Cartier, Eddy Bell, and myself, went down river to our duck blinds. Shortly after 8:30 the fog lifted and the day turned into a beautiful bluebird day - windless - cloudless - duckless. We left the blinds about 10:30, picked up the decoys and started for home. Close by nun bouy 42, I noticed an Osprey circling the marsh and pointed him out to the others. We watched him with the binoculars for a few minutes, when, from down the river a lone Canvas-back duck came loafing along just above the water. The Osprey immediately went for altitude and got perhaps, 75 feet up when he did a half roll and came down on the duck. It was not the plummet of the falcon, but a swooping dive in which he flapped his wings once or twice. That was his error, for before he got to the bottom of his dive the Canvas-back had trebled his wing beat and was at least 20 feet in front of the Osprey's diving arc. The Osprey caught himself and continued his pursuit for only a few seconds. The last we saw of the duck was a high speed speck crossing the river into Brunswick County.—SAM BAKER, *Wilmington, N. C.*

**Peregrine Falcon at Columbia, S. C.**—A Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*), or Duck Hawk, found dead on a street in Columbia, Richland County, S. C., Jan. 2, 1954, appears to be the first record for the county. The bird is a female, weighing 2 pounds, 15 ounces, when found. It had a wing spread of 46 inches. I am now in the process of mounting it.—JERE D. EGGLESTON, *Columbia, S. C.*

**Ring-billed Gulls Near Edenton, N. C.**—The Ring-billed and other species of gulls often feed and rest in small groups in open fields along our

coastal waters. Individual gulls may be seen most any distance inland. On Jan. 3, 1954 I found a compact flock of at least 400 adult Ring-billed Gulls resting in a moist Winter Rye field bordering N. C. Highway 37 five miles east of Edenton and five miles north of Albemarle Sound, the nearest large body of water. This was at high noon. There were only about six immature Ring-bills in the group. Eight Turkey Vultures seemed to be an essential part of the aggregation.—T. L. QUAY, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**Mourning Doves: Mass Behavior in Watering.**—Extreme dryness during the past summer eliminated most standing water, marshland, and upper soil moisture in the vicinity of Raleigh, thus making the lakes and a few major streams the only open water supplies available to birds. Lake Johnson itself (Raleigh's 200-acre reservoir) was down to a level about eleven feet below normal at the time of these observations. It isn't strange, therefore, that Lake Johnson should become a focal point for the watering of birds, but some notes on their manner of flocking may be of interest, particularly of the Mourning Dove, a game species. Robins in large numbers and at least 20 other species of birds were observed drinking here on the same afternoon.

Attention was first attracted to the dove flocking by a group of 95 seen at 4:15 on the afternoon of Sept. 8—the first day on which observations were made at this time of day. During the following hour I kept continuous track of the arrival of new birds and movement within the flock. Several hundred birds were obviously present at the start and I counted 439 additions, many of them arriving singly or in "pairs." Omitting the first flock of 95, there were 72 arrival groups, giving an average of 4.8 birds per flock. Some birds made a semi-circle over the field before settling, but dropped into the flocking area by the most direct route. In a few cases the individuals of a flock landed at rather widely separated spots. Thus the arriving birds gave an impression of independent birds or loosely associated flocks arriving at a predetermined concentration point—a crescent-shaped area about 150 yards long located on a larger exposed mud flat covered with a sparse growth of Tooth-cup (*Rotata ramosior*). After arrival the doves rested quietly *without feeding*. At times small groups shifted from one section of the crescent to another or circled far out over the woods, only to return to the main body. Some birds, apparently a much smaller number, went into an adjacent clump of medium-sized pines.

In the first 45 minutes no doves were seen moving to the stream, located 50 yards from one end of the crescent, but at 4:57 about 250 from that end of the flock streamed over to the watering place. After four minutes small groups began returning to the area they had left or going into the pines. This continued until 5:07, when 200 doves from the next nearest segment of the crescent flew to water in the same manner. Now there was much milling around, and at 5:14 a third group of over 250 birds watered. At this time over 300 unwatered birds remained quietly at the far end of the crescent, indicating that a total of at least 1,000 doves were present.

The following day observation began at 3:30 P.M. at which time no doves were present. By 4:40 less than a hundred had arrived, but at this time a flock of about 200 came in. After that arrivals came consistently in small

Mourning Dove Watering Place

Photo by ROD AMUNDSON



groups until 6:30 (darkness settled around 6:40). Roughly 700 doves were counted and observations were essentially the same—small groups arriving from all directions, but a close grouping in a confined area after arrival. Attempts to take photographs disturbed the watering pattern, apparently, for observations two days later showed again that segments of the flock flew as a body to the water and several minutes elapsed before they were followed by a similar group. Approximately 600 doves were present Sept. 11 and 13.

On 3 days when observation was continued until dark, doves began departing in reverse order of the arrival pattern at about 5:30. Flock sizes remained the same. On the 9th, when 200 arrived as a flock, 200 also departed as a flock. Twice the area was checked as darkness closed in—no doves were present in the vicinity.

On the morning of Sept. 14 a check was made at dawn to see if doves were present. Though several individuals were seen in the vicinity, as always, none were in the concentration area, seemingly verifying the idea that none spent the night there or watered early in the morning.—WILLIAM H. HON, *Zoology Department, N. C. State College Oct. 1, 1953*. (Interesting weather facts: Official Raleigh rainfall: July, 1953, driest since 1935; August, 1953, driest since 1887.—*Dept. Ed.*)

Owls.—Dr. J. R. Hester's pond, 3 miles east of Wendell, Wake County, N. C., Sept. 14, 1953, 7:00 P. M.; almost dark.—While fishing near the head of the 9-acre pond, I heard something splash in the water about 60 feet from the boat. I then saw something moving from the water and could barely tell that it was a bird's wing. I turned my flashlight on and saw a Barred Owl with its feet in the water and wings raised upward. It flew to a nearby tree and sat there holding a 5" fish in its talons. I moved the boat to within 40 feet before it flew, carrying the fish away also.—EUGENE HESTER, *Raleigh, N. C.*

This from Winston-Salem, N. C.: On Oct. 30, 1953, at about dusk, while driving to the Spencer's home, I turned from the highway into a side street at a corner well lighted by a mercury vapor lamp, and saw a Screech Owl on the road. I pulled over and got out. The bird was sitting with its back toward me, about 3 feet from the curb, facing oncoming traffic. About a foot away, nearer the middle of the road, lay the body of another Screech Owl that had evidently been hit by a car. Since the remaining live owl showed no disposition to move, I captured it by putting my jacket over it, and took it along. Dr. Spencer banded it. It was quite docile and did not appear to be sick. We removed a couple of louse-flies from among the inner wing feathers and released it. The next day we examined the dead bird but were unable to determine the sex. Both were gray phase.—DORIS SIMPSON, *Winston-Salem, N. C.*

#### Briefs for the Files.

**Common Loon**, Heard crying near Wilmington, N. C., Nov. 30, and Dec. 3, 1953, The "Eagle" Broleys, Appleberrys, *et al.* **Old Squaw**, 1 male at City Lake, Salisbury, N. C., Jan. 12, 1954, Thom. W. Blair. **Sora Rail**, 1, Spencer Lake, Winston-Salem, N. C., Sept. 10, 1953, Mrs. M. P. Spencer. **Black-billed Cuckoo**, single bird at Eastover, S. C., Sept. 6, 1953, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Barn Swallow**, 2 imm. at Wilmington, N. C., Oct. 17, 1953, Mrs. A. and others. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, several at Wilmington, Oct. 17, and Dec. 3, 1953. Mrs. A. **Winter Wren**, singing at Wilmington, Oct. 18, 1953, also Mrs. A. **Catbird**, 1, Elkin, N. C., Oct. 21, 1953, Hodel. **Wilson's Warbler**, 1 male, Lenoir, N. C., Oct. 16, 1953, Mr. & Mrs. Fred H. May. **Indigo Bunting**, several in yard at Eastover, S. C., Oct. 2, 1953, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Painted Bunting**, 1, Topsail Beach, N. C., Feb. 28, 1953, and Nov. 27, 1953, B. McK. Johnson, M.D. **Red Crossbill**, small flock, North Wilkesboro, N. C., Oct. 22, 1953, Wendell P. Smith.

# New and Reinstated Members, Oct. 1, 1953—Jan. 10, 1954

## Regular Members

(Sponsor's name is in parenthesis)

- Althouse, Rev. H. D., 535 Second Ave., N.W., Hickory, N. C. (J. W. Clinard)
- Allen, Miss Susan J., Sunnybrae, Milford, Del. Angell, Mrs. Nelson P., Country Club Road, New Bern, N. C. (Mrs. F. D. Conderman)
- Asbill, C. M., Jr., 2407 Stafford Ave., Raleigh, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Ashworth, Mrs. Olive, Tryon, N. C. (Miss Rose W. Terry)
- Aycock, Mrs. J. B., Fremont, N. C. (Mrs. Charlotte Hilton Green)
- Aycock, Wm. P., II, Arrow Head Road, Chapel Hill, N. C. (Bob Spearman)
- Barber, Yates M., Box 117, Wrightsville Beach, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Beaty, Miss Anna M., Masonic Temple, Greenville, S. C. (George F. Townes)
- Betts, Mrs. T. T., 101 Magnolia Ave., Fayetteville, N. C. (Mrs. L. E. Whitfield)
- Briggs, Willis G., 1546 Iredell Drive, Raleigh, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Broley, Charles, Delta, Ontario, Canada (J. W. Clinard)
- Buchheister, Dr. Carl W., 1130 5th Ave., New York 28, N. Y. (Mrs. O. F. Jensen)
- Cahoon, W. G., Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge, New Holland, N. C. (Robert L. Wolff)
- Cantey, Major Edward B., Box 303, Columbia, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Causey, Miss Rebecea M., Route 1, Liberty, N. C. (Mrs. H. R. Pike)
- Chapman, Steven C., Box 1155, Myrtle Beach, S. C. (Mrs. P. D. Aman)
- Chase, Mrs. H. L., Box 1131, Tryon, N. C. (Mrs. T. S. Clark)
- Cheek, Randall P., 1700½ N. Blount St., Raleigh, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Chivers, Jack, 50 Ordale Blvd., Pittsburgh, Pa. (T. L. Quay)
- Clark, Mrs. Elmer T., Lake Junaluska, N. C. (Miss Sara Lesley)
- Clark, Mrs. Robert, Box 385, Mt. Pleasant, S. C. (Betty Clark)
- Coleman, James Olin, Biltmore Farms, Asheville, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Conderman, Mrs. Fred D., Route 3, Box 211, New Bern, N. C. (Robert Overing)
- Cooper, Albert M., 122 Mulberry St., Statesville, N. C. (W. C. Miller)
- DeTamble, Mrs. Fred E., Box 2250, Winston-Salem, N. C.
- Dickerson, Mrs. Woodson, 1811 Elizabeth St., Orlando, Fla. (Miss Odessa Chambers)
- Dillard, Mrs. E. A., Shulls Mills, N. C. (Harry T. Davis)
- DuRose, Mrs. D. S., 116 Spring St., Darlington, S. C. (Mrs. Edwin Dargan)
- Duchain, Miss Annette, Lake Lure, N. C. (Dr. Edna Warner)
- DuPre, Miss Mary S., 662 Otis Blvd., Spartanburg, S. C. (Gabriel Cannon)
- Eason, Mrs. Herman F., E.N.C. Sanatorium, Wilson, N. C. (Dr. Frances E. Nohlin)
- Ellis, Billy, 30 Wedgewood Drive, Greenville, S. C. (Rosa Lee Hart)
- Ennett, A. D., District Biologist, Swansboro, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Essick, Mrs. Marjorie, 3108 Banbury Road, Raleigh, N. C. (Miss Mabel Jones)
- Evans, Mrs. E. H., Route 3, Fayetteville, N. C. (Claude W. Rankin, Jr.)
- Evans, Mrs. Lorena S., Box 14, Annapolis, Md. (A. D. Shaftsbury)
- Fisher, Miss Sally M., New Holland, N. C. (Harry T. Davis)
- Frost, Mrs. Bertha R., 1438 6th Ave., Huntington, W. Va. (Jack N. Frost)
- Gage, Mr. Gaston, Edgewood Ave., Clemson, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Gage, Mrs. Gaston, Edgewood Ave., Clemson, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Gaines, Mrs. W. E., 228 Halcyon Ave., Winston-Salem, N. C. (W. E. Gaines)
- Gibbons, Miss Rebekah, Tryon, N. C. (Rose W. Terry)
- Godfrey, Mrs. Martha K., 798 Glendalyn Ave., Spartanburg, S. C. (Gabriel Cannon)
- Goode, James M., 921 Fourth Ave., N.W., Hickory, N. C. (J. W. Clinard)
- Greene, Earle R., 418 South Holt Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. (Roy C. Werner)
- Hardy, Mrs. C. T., 1919 Club Blvd., Durham, N. C. (Dr. T. T. Jones)
- Hill, Mrs. K. L., Cedar Lawn, Society Hill, S. C. (Mrs. Edwin Dargan)
- Hill, Mrs. W. A., 1904 Brice St., Greensboro, N. C. (Mrs. Margaret Wall)
- Hobbs, Mrs. K. O., 2601 Avondale Ave., Charlotte 3, N. C. (Miss Leila G. Johnson)
- Hopkins, J. Drayton, Simpsonville, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Hutchinson, Mrs. Edwin, 618 S. York St., Gastonia, N. C. (Mrs. Grady Pearson)
- Johnson, Edwin W., Spartanburg, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Karseh, Mrs. F. W. J., 510 Vanee St., Roanoke Rapids, N. C. (Roanoke Rapids Bird Club)
- Kemp, W. P., 1518 East Mulberry St., Goldsboro, N. C.
- Ketchin, Mrs. J. S., West Washington St., Winstboro, S. C. (Mrs. J. H. Boulware)
- King, Mrs. Albert, 1800 Rolling Road, Greensboro, N. C. (Nina D. Tyner)
- Lawson, William D., Armstrong Circle, Gastonia, N. C. (J. R. Hudson)
- Lee, Mrs. Mary Heath, Fairhope, Ala. (Margaret Nichols)
- Loggins, Mrs. F. W., 221 West Faris Road, Greenville, S. C. (Rosa Lee Hart)
- Ludeke, Mrs. A., Castle Hayne, N. C. (Mrs. H. Vander Schalie)
- McCarthy, Dr. G. R., Box 544, Chapel Hill, N. C. (Roy M. Brown)
- McClam, Miss Maude S., Route 1, Seranton, S. C. (Miss Sally Sandifer)
- McDonald, Mrs. M. G., Jennings Ave., Greenwood, S. C. (Mrs. J. H. Boulware)
- McKeithan, D. T., Darlington, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- MaeRae, Miss Monimia F., 45 Lawrence Place, Asheville, N. C. (Mrs. W. R. Marvin)
- Massey, John, 2300 Hopedale Ave., Charlotte, N. C. (Miss Carroll Johnson)
- Massey, Mrs. John, 2300 Hopedale Ave., Charlotte, N. C. (Miss Carroll Johnson)
- Miller, William C., 132 College St., Chester, S. C. (Mrs. W. C. Miller)
- Miller, Mrs. William C., 132 College St., Chester, S. C. (Mrs. W. S. Robinson)
- Montgomery, Mrs. Wade A., Route 2, Box 558, Charlotte, N. C.
- Montgomery, Mrs. Walter, 755 Plume St., Spartanburg, S. C. (Dr. Edna Warner)

- Moore, Miss Genevieve, 202 Roland Park Ave., High Point, N. C. (Mrs. D. R. Parker)
- Morgan, Miss Martha Frances, 24 E. Faris Road, Greenville, S. C. (Rosa Lee Hart)
- Morton, Mrs. E. V., 4110 East Cooper St., Tucson, Ariz. (Odessa Chambers)
- Myers, Mrs. Richard A., 2137 Radcliffe Ave., Charlotte, N. C. (B. R. Chamberlain)
- Napier, Mrs. J. M., Darlington, S. C. (Mrs. Edwin Dargan)
- Nichorster, Norman, 1084 Maple Ave., Ardsley, Penna. (Margaret Nichols)
- Norwood, Mrs. Joseph R., Jr., 906 S. Church St., Salisbury, N. C. (J. R. Norwood, Jr.)
- Odum, Dr. Howard T., Biology Dept., University of Fla., Gainesville, Fla. (T. L. Quay)
- Olipphant, R. H., Chester, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Ongar, Mrs. Phillip, Tryon, N. C. (Rose W. Terry)
- Orr, Harry A., McDaniel Heights Apt., Apt. 12-C, Greenville, S. C. (Mrs. Harry A. Orr)
- Owens, Miss Laura, 1508 S Blvd., Charlotte, N. C. (Margaret Wall)
- Parker, Louis T., Jr., 6 Greenhill St., Charleston, S. C. (E. B. Chamberlain)
- Paschal, Miss Rosa, 302 Horne St., Raleigh, N. C. (Mrs. Charles C. Cheek)
- Paul, Mrs. James, New Hope Farm, Route 3, Chapel Hill, N. C. (Roy M. Brown)
- Payne, Mrs. Hubert A., 61 Society St., Charleston, S. C. (Mrs. E. P. Carroll)
- Peace, Mrs. S. T., 338 Anderson Ave., Henderson, N. C. (Mrs. Lillian K. Young)
- Pettway, Miss Stella, 2111 Metts Ave., Wilmington, N. C. (Mrs. W. C. Mebane)
- Phillips, L. B., 2811 O'Berry St., Raleigh, N. C. (Mrs. T. L. Quay)
- Poutiatine, Mrs. Serge, Wappoo Hall Road, Charleston, S. C. (Miss Helen F. Potter)
- Purser, Mrs. Lucille, Hotel Carolinian, Nags Head, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Reichert, Mrs. Elsa, 14 West First St., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. (T. L. Quay)
- Rogers, Mrs. W. Davis, 47 Legare St., Charleston 4, S. C. (Ellison Williams)
- Ross, Charles, 818 Anderson St., Durham, N. C. (Watt Eagle)
- Shamburger, Miss Anne, 517 Highland Ave., Greensboro, N. C.
- Sherman, V. L., Route 2, Dana Road, Hendersonville, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Sherman, Mrs. V. L., Route 2, Dana Road, Hendersonville, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Simpson, Mrs. Roxie Collie, 6624 First St., N.W., Washington, D. C.
- Smith, F. Brandon, Jr., Anderson, S. C. (D. E. Wade)
- Smith, George, Route 3, Box 210, New Bern, N. C. (Mrs. F. D. Conderman)
- Smith, Miss Helen P., 519 E. Main St., Spartanburg, S. C. (Mrs. Isaac Andrews)
- Smith, Mrs. Sterling L., Route 5, Paris Mountain, Greenville, S. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Smith, W. M., 2036 East 7th St., Charlotte, N. C. (Mrs. Beatrice Potter)
- Strekley, Allen, 9 Black Hawk Dr., Washington, D. C. (R. L. Price)
- Strickland, J. W., Avent's Ferry Road, Raleigh, N. C. (Mrs. J. W. Strickland)
- Tate, Mrs. J. H., 32 North Madison, Marion, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Thomas, Miss Emma, 221 S. Marietta St., Gastonia, N. C. (Miss Wilhelmina Shull)
- Thompson, Mrs. Hugh S., 111 N. Ervin St., Darlington, S. C. (Mrs. Edwin Dargan)
- Tong, Mrs. Chris, 2309 Woodrow St., Durham, N. C. (Dr. Thos. T. Jones)
- Vernon, Mrs. H. W., Box 1261, Tryon, N. C. (Mrs. H. L. Moorar)
- Wade, Harry J., 1035 Elm St., Beloit, Wis. (D. E. Wade)
- Waldrop, Neil, 8807 Glenville Road, Silver Spring, Md. (George M. Townes)
- Wardlaw, Mrs. Helen, 324 Wakefield Dr., Charlotte, N. C. (Miss Sarah Nooe)
- Warren, Hon. George, Hampton, S. C., (D. E. Wade)
- Weaver, Dr. Richard L., Cons. Dept., School of Natural Resources, Univ. of Mich., Ann Arbor, Mich. (Mrs. Charlotte H. Greene)
- Webster, C. R., 1509 Canterbury Rd., Raleigh, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Webster, Miss Elizabeth, Tryon, N. C. (Miss Rose W. Terry)
- West, Horace, Aurora, N. C. (R. L. Wolff)
- Whisnant, Miss Grace, Route 2, Morganton, N. C. (B. R. Chamberlain)
- Whitehead, Lawrence C., Box 5577, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Whittier, Mrs. Benjamin L., 2718 Everette Ave., Raleigh, N. C. (T. L. Quay)
- Woodfin, Mrs. Edgar N., Route 2, Campobello, S. C. (Mrs. M. B. Fryga)
- Wooters, Mrs. J. K., 1304 Rhem St., Kinston, N. C. (Miss Nell Broome)
- York, M. A., 622 Daniels St., Raleigh, N. C. (H. T. Davis)
- Zerno, Miss Elizabeth, Black Mountain, N. C.

#### Supporting Members

- Copeland, A. M., Box 132, Montgomery Bldg., Spartanburg, S. C. (H. E. Correll)
- Mahon, Brown, 308 McDaniel Ave., Greenville, S. C. (Mrs. Potter)
- Roth, Mrs. Thomas M., 137 Terrace Ave., Elkin, N. C. (Thos. M. Roth)

#### Family Members

- Fowler, Manuel A., Main Street, Wilkesboro, N. C. (L. L. Hendren)
- Riherd, Mr. & Mrs. Paul M., 24 Lord Ashley Drive, South Windermere, Charleston, S. C. (Mrs. E. P. Carroll)
- Riherd, Martha Carroll, 24 Lord Ashley Drive, South Windermere, Charleston, S. C. (Mrs. E. P. Carroll)
- Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Wendell P., 711 Kensington Ave., North Wilkesboro, N. C. (Margaret Y. Wall)
- Smith, Louise Pearson, Jr., 711 Kensington Ave., North Wilkesboro, N. C. (Margaret Y. Wall)

#### Affiliated Club Members

- Fayetteville Garden Club
- West, Mrs. W. J., 115 Hale St., Fayetteville, N. C. (Mrs. L. E. Whitfield)
- Myrtle Beach Garden Club
- Aman, Mrs. P. D., Box 1243, Myrtle Beach, S. C. (Mrs. P. D. Aman)

#### Present Status of Avian Forms of South Carolina

At the close of the fourth year since the publication of *South Carolina Birdlife*, the additions to the avifauna of that State to date, may be of interest to students of ornithology. There are now 446 forms recorded, plus an

additional 21 forms on the Hypothetical List, making a total of 467. The writer, having an interleaved copy of the volume, has kept it up to date as closely as possible from observation, perusal of literature, correspondence and other means. The above figure stands as of the end of 1953.—*Alexander Sprunt, Jr., The Crescent, Charleston 50, S. C.*





Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular . . . . .	\$1.00	Contributing . . . . .	\$25.00
Supporting . . . . .	\$5.00	Affiliated Club . . . . .	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

### OFFICERS FOR 1953-1954

*President:* Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.

*Vice-Presidents:* Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.; I. S. H. Metcalf, Charleston, S. C.; Fred H. May, Lenoir, N. C.

*Secretary:* Miss May W. Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Treasurer:* Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editors, and the following four elected Members-at-large: Rhett Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.; Mrs. W. C. Mebane, Wilmington, N. C. and Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.





# THE CHAT

*Bulletin of*



Volume 18

June, 1954

Number 2



# THE CHAT

Vol. 18, No. 2

JUNE, 1954

Published by The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Devoted to the publication of scientific and popular information on the birds and other wildlife of the Carolinas.

*Editor:* Kay Curtis Sisson, 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C.

*Co-editor:* Annie Rivers Faver, Eastover, S. C.

*Associate Editors:* B. R. Chamberlain, Ernest Cutts, Harry Davis, Jack Dermid, James Mattocks, T. L. Quay, Thomas W. Simpson, Douglas Wade.

*Distribution Office:* N. C. State Museum, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C.

*The Chat* is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December as the official bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Entered as second-class matter on March 14, 1952, at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price to non-members: \$1.00 per volume. Single copies: 30 cents. Correspondence about changes of address and back numbers should be sent to Mr. Harry Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. *Please notify the Distribution Office immediately of change of address.* Subscriptions should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., and sent to the Treasurer.

---

## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	29
The Birds of Guilford County, N. C. <i>Dr. Charlotte Dawley</i> .....	30
Late Summer Birds of the Black Mountains of North Carolina <i>Dr. Merrill P. Spencer</i> .....	41
Backyard Birding. <i>Anne Rivers Faver</i> , editor .....	45
In Memoriam (Dr. J. W. P. Smithwick). <i>T. L. Quay</i> .....	47
Safety Factor in a Hanging Nest. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	48
Annual Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club. <i>Thomas W. Simpson</i> .....	50
Books. <i>T. L. Quay</i> and <i>Douglas Wade</i> .....	51
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	52
Loons and Mergansers. <i>Sarah Lesley</i> .....	52
Rare Wildfowl at Santee. <i>Robert J. Lemaire</i> .....	52
Duck Behavior. <i>E. R. Lyon</i> .....	52
Purple Gallinules Continue to Breed at Lake Ellis, Craven County, N. C. <i>Mr. and Mrs. Matt L. Thompson</i> .....	53
Herring Gulls and Gannets Along Hatteras Bank. <i>T. L. Quay</i> and <i>Philip H. Davis</i> .....	53
Swallow Migration on the North Carolina Coast. <i>Hal H. Strickland</i> .....	53
The Bank Swallow in the Carolinas. <i>A. L. Pickens</i> .....	53
Mockingbird Behavior <i>J. W. E. Joyner</i> .....	54
Goldfinches Nesting at Rocky Mount, N. C. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	54
Rose-breasted Grosbeak Winters at Troy, N. C. <i>Frances M. Covington</i> .....	55
More Dickcissels. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	55
Sparrow Trapped by Algae, or Pond Scum? <i>Frank B. Meacham</i> .....	55
Rare Sparrows in the North Carolina Coastal Plain. <i>John B. Funderburg</i> .....	55
The Ceilometer Hazard. <i>Thomas E. Street</i> .....	56
Briefs for the Files. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	Inside Back Cover

---

**Cover Photograph**—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher feeding young, Nash Co., N. C. by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C. This cover plate was given by the editors marking their first year in office.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



I am glad that May Puett has been elected president of the Carolina Bird Club. I have known Miss Puett for all that number of years since 1915, and I believe know what a fine personality she is. In fact she and I were associated together in editing and publishing Lenoir's only newspaper for quite a long time. During these years I learned to respect and admire her ability and judgment. I must say that she is one of the hardest workers I have ever known. And too, she has that unusual, and most commendable, trait

of adding enthusiasm to her work, whatever that work might be.

As president of the Carolina Bird Club I am sure that she will carry on the duties of that office with efficiency and with that same enthusiasm that is so characteristic of her.

Miss Puett is a former resident of Lenoir, having spent almost her entire life in that city before moving to Greenville, S. C., in 1947. She was a very active member of the Lenoir Audubon Club and served as its secretary from 1944 to 1947. In Greenville she continued her field work and study of birds. Soon she found others who were interested and together they organized the Greenville Bird Club. Miss Puett was elected the first president of the newly formed club and is still serving in that capacity. Under her leadership it has been one of the most active of all the CBC membership clubs.

Miss Puett's inspiring interest in the study of birds has not been limited to the Greenville area alone. Her talks and programs in other clubs and schools and her field work have taken her into areas where she has made many contacts with other observers. Her enthusiasm in this work, no doubt, is largely responsible for the growth of interest in field observation of birds among many amateurs in South Carolina during the past few years.

—FRED H. MAY

# THE BIRDS OF GUILFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLOTTE DAWLEY

Guilford County is in the north central part of the North Carolina Piedmont, about twenty miles south of the Virginia state line. It consists of rolling hills, varying in elevation from 700 to 900 feet above sea level. The land is well drained by small streams, some of which form the upper reaches of the Haw and Deep Rivers. Many of the smaller creeks have been dammed for commercial or recreational purposes, forming lakes which attract water birds. Lake Brandt and Richland Lake, sometimes called Lake Jeannette, are two of these larger artificial lakes north of Greensboro. Many people living in the country have their own private lakes and farm ponds.

There are two large towns in Guilford County—Greensboro in the center and High Point in the southwestern corner. The rest of the county, aside from a few smaller villages, is farms and woods. Corn, wheat, and tobacco are the principal crops, with a little cotton, and lately a few cattle. The woods are largely pine or mixed hardwood, with the various oaks predominating.

Bird study in Guilford County began with T. Gilbert Pearson, who made observations at Guilford College from 1891 to 1910. At the same time J. H. Armfield was reporting from Greensboro. During the 1920's and 1930's, records were kept by Elmer E. Brown, Earl Hall, Wade Fox, and L. L. McAlister.

This list is a cooperative project of the members of the Piedmont Bird Club under the supervision of a committee consisting of Elva Barrow, Charlotte Dawley, chairman, J. A. McLeod, Jr., H. L. Medford, A. D. Shaftesbury, and George Smith. The records which were published in the 1942 edition of *Birds of North Carolina* by T. Gilbert Pearson, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley, and in *The Chat* since its establishment in 1937 as the organ of the North Carolina Bird Club, form the basis for this list. In addition, the following people furnished records from their personal notes: Evelyn Cole, Mrs. F. H. Craft, Mrs. R. D. Douglas, James Mattocks of High Point, Mrs. Robert McCoy, Mrs. H. L. Medford, Ida Mitchell, Etta Schiffman (who also lent those of Tom Zapf), Mrs. Edith Settan, and Thomas Street. Without these notes, and without the patient checking of the list by the members of the committee, it could not have been completed.

It is our aim to include all of the birds which have ever been seen and reported from Guilford County. Since most of our records are sight records, we have not indicated subspecies with the exception of the Western Palm and Yellow Palm Warblers. The *Check List of Common Names for Use in the Carolinas* by Simpson, Chamberlain and Quay has been followed for common names, but in a few cases the more familiar name has been included in parentheses. The scientific names are those used in *South Carolina Bird Life* by Sprunt and Chamberlain. We have also tried to adopt the descriptive terms used in that book, viz. "A bird may be said to be *abundant* if it occurs in large numbers either in flocks or otherwise; *common* if it is of regular occurrence in substantial numbers; *fairly common*, of rather frequent occurrence in small numbers; *rare*, of very unusual occurrence; *casual*, of irregu-

lar appearance but coming from a regular range not far away; *accidental*, of purely fortuitous occurrence from a distant or unlikely area."

1. COMMON LOON. *Gavia immer*.  
Occasionally visits the larger lakes, November to May.
2. RED-NECKED GREBE (HOLBOELL'S GREBE). *Colymbus grise-gena*.  
Reported March 21, 1948 on a small reservoir by A. D. Shaftesbury and Oscar Paris.
3. HORNED GREBE. *Colymbus auritus*.  
Casual winter visitor from late October to April.
4. PIED-BILLED GREBE. *Podilymbus podiceps*.  
Common winter resident on many lakes, October to April, uncommon in summer.
5. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. *Phalacrocorax auritus*.  
Casual winter visitor on large lakes, November to May.
- 5.a GREAT WHITE HERON. *Ardea occidentalis*.  
Accidental. Larry Crawford identified as this species a big white bird that he saw Sept. 6, 1943. It was much larger than an American Egret which was standing near-by and was close enough so that he saw its yellow legs when it flew.
6. GREAT BLUE HERON. *Ardea herodias*.  
Fairly common permanent resident along the shallow shores of lakes and streams.
7. COMMON EGRET (AMERICAN EGRET). *Casmerodius albus*.  
Fairly common post-breeding visitor, June to October.
8. SNOWY EGRET. *Leucophoyx thula*.  
Fairly common post-breeding visitor, June to October.
9. LITTLE BLUE HERON. *Florida cocrulea*.  
Uncommon post-breeding visitor, late June to October.
10. GREEN HERON. *Butorides virescens*.  
Common summer resident, April to October.
11. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nycticorax nycticorax*.  
Uncommon summer visitor, reported in April and June.
12. YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. *Nyctanassa violacea*.  
Fairly common summer visitor, May to late August. Nesting reported.
13. AMERICAN BITTERN. *Botaurus lentiginosus*.  
Uncommon transient, March to May.
14. LEAST BITTERN. *Ixobrychus exilis*.  
Uncommon summer visitor, June to August.
15. WOOD-IBIS. *Mycteria americana*.  
Rare post-breeding visitor. One was seen by J. M. Mattocks and J. W. Furr, June 26, 1951 at the Uwharrie Scout Camp.
16. WHITE IBIS. *Guara alba*.  
Accidental. Mrs. Craft saw an immature bird June 28 and 29, 1951.
17. CANADA GOOSE. *Branta canadensis*.  
Common during the spring and fall migrations.
18. SNOW GOOSE. *Chen hyperborea*.  
Rare winter visitor, January and March.
19. MALLARD. *Anas platyrhynchos*.  
Common winter resident, October to January, occasional to March.
20. BLACK DUCK. *Anas rubripes*.  
Common winter resident, October to January, occasional to March.
21. GADWALL. *Anas strepera*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, November to March.
22. AMERICAN PINTAIL. *Anas acuta*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, October to February. Nesting reported in 1949 on Deep River in Sumner Township, and observed in June, 1950 near High Point by James Mattocks.

23. GREEN-WINGED TEAL. *Anas carolinensis*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, late October to late March.
24. BLUE-WINGED TEAL. *Anas discors*.  
Common transient, March to May, and September to October.
25. AMERICAN WIDGEON (BALDPATE). *Mareca americana*.  
Fairly common winter resident, October to May.
26. SHOVELLER. *Spatula clypeata*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, November to March.
27. WOOD DUCK. *Aix sponsa*.  
Fairly common permanent resident.
28. REDHEAD. *Aythya americana*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, November to March.
29. RING-NECKED DUCK. *Aythya collaris*.  
Common winter resident, October to May.
30. CANVAS-BACK. *Aythya valisneria*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, November to February.
31. GREATER SCAUP DUCK. *Aythya marila*.  
Rare wanderer from coast, reported in November and February.
32. LESSER SCAUP DUCK. *Aythya affinis*.  
Fairly common winter resident, late October to May.
33. COMMON GOLDEN-EYE (AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE). *Bucephala clangula*.  
Fairly common winter visitor, December to March.
34. BUFFLEHEAD. *Bucephala albeola*.  
Fairly common winter resident, November to March.
35. OLD-SQUAW. *Clangula hyemalis*.  
Casual winter visitor, December to March.
36. SURF SCOTER. *Melanitta perspicillata*.  
Accidental. Three were seen April 29, 1945 at Richland Lake by Tom Zapf, George Smith, and Larry Crawford.
37. RUDDY DUCK. *Oxyura jamaicensis*.  
Fairly common winter visitor, October to March.
38. HOODED MERGANSER. *Lophodytes cucullatus*.  
Fairly common winter resident, November to March.
39. COMMON MERGANSER (AMERICAN MERGANSER). *Mergus merganser*.  
Fairly common winter resident, November to May.
40. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. *Mergus serrator*.  
Fairly common winter resident, November to May.
41. TURKEY VULTURE. *Cathartes aura*. Common permanent resident.
42. BLACK VULTURE. *Coragyps atratus*.  
Permanent resident, believed to be more common in winter.
43. SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. *Accipiter striatus*.  
Permanent resident, more common in winter.
44. COOPER'S HAWK. *Accipiter cooperii*. Permanent resident.
45. RED-TAILED HAWK. *Buteo jamaicensis*. Permanent resident.
46. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. *Buteo lineatus*. Permanent resident.
47. BROAD-WINGED HAWK. *Buteo platypterus*.  
Summer resident, April to September.
48. BALD EAGLE. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.  
Accidental. George Smith and Larry Crawford saw an adult in full plumage on Sept. 9, 1945 near Richland Lake.
49. MARSH HAWK. *Circus cyaneus*.  
Fairly common winter resident, September to May.
50. OSPREY. *Pandion haliaetus*.  
Fairly common transient, March to June, September to November.
51. PEREGRINE FALCON (DUCK HAWK). *Falco peregrinus*.  
Rare casual. One was captured in downtown Greensboro Dec. 24, 1953, after alighting on the aerial of the television station. Also reported by James Mattocks May 3 and Sept. 7, 1952 near High Point.

52. SPARROW HAWK. *Falco sparverius*.  
Common permanent resident.
53. BOB-WHITE. *Colinus virginianus*.  
Common permanent resident of fields and open woods.
54. TURKEY. *Meleagris gallopavo*.  
Uncommon permanent resident in some of the swamps and woods.
55. KING RAIL. *Rallus elegans*.  
Occasionally seen in marshes. Reported in October, November, and May.
56. VIRGINIA RAIL. *Rallus limicola*.  
Rare. Reported on one Christmas and one spring count.
57. SORA RAIL. *Porzana carolina*.  
Rare. one was seen by Pearson on August 19, 1909, and one by Mrs. Settan on Sept. 22, 1944.
58. YELLOW RAIL. *Coturnicops noveboracensis*.  
Our only record is the one brought to Pearson, October 4, 1910.
59. BLACK RAIL. *Laterallus jamaicensis*.  
Rarely seen. Inhabits low meadows or fields. Nesting reported by Pearson near Jamestown. Reported recently in May, 1951.
60. PURPLE GALLINULE. *Porphyryla martinica*.  
Accidental. Tom Zapf saw one on July 1, 1943 at Camp Graystone.
61. COMMON GALLINULE (FLORIDA GALLINULE). *Gallinula chloropus*. Rare spring migrant. One was observed May 18-22, 1949 at the Crafts, and school children found one dead on Freeman's Mill Road, May 17, 1950 and brought it to Mrs. Perrett.
62. AMERICAN COOT. *Fulica americana*.  
Fairly common winter visitor, October to May; one July record.
63. RINGED PLOVER (SEMIPALMATED PLOVER). *Charadrius hiaticula*. Rare transient. Reported May 5, and Sept. 9 and 10, 1945.
64. KILLDEER. *Charadrius vociferus*.  
Common permanent resident near water or on flat open ground.
65. AMERICAN WOODCOCK. *Philohela minor*.  
Fairly common permanent resident, less common in winter.
66. COMMON SNIPE (WILSON'S SNIPE). *Capella gallinago*.  
Fairly common winter resident, September to May.
67. UPLAND PLOVER. *Bartramia longicauda*.  
Rare transient. Pearson reported one in the spring of 1893, Tom Zapf on April 28, 1945, and James Mattocks saw three at Sechrest Lake on Nov. 22, 1953.
68. SPOTTED SANDPIPER. *Actitis macularia*.  
Common summer resident, April to September.
69. SOLITARY SANDPIPER. *Tringa solitaria*.  
Common transient, March to May, and August to October.
70. GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. *Totanus melanoleucus*.  
Common transient, April to May, and September to October.
71. LESSER YELLOW-LEGS. *Totanus flavipes*.  
Common transient, April to May, and September to October.
72. PECTORAL SANDPIPER. *Erolia melanotos*.  
Fairly common fall migrant, September and October.
73. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. *Erolia fuscicollis*.  
Reported for the first time in April, 1952. One or two were seen April 4 at the Crafts, 14 were seen April 24 at the Medfords, and four were counted on the spring count, May 4. They were again reported on the 1953 spring count.
74. LEAST SANDPIPER. *Erolia minutilla*.  
Uncommon transient, May and September, more common in May.
75. DUNLIN (RED-BACKED SANDPIPER). *Erolia alpina*.  
Reported only once, on a field trip in March, 1953, led by Mr. and Mrs. Perrett.



76. DOWITCHER. *Limnodromus griseus*.  
Larry Crawford collected one August 30, 1945 on Richland Lake. Reported again Sept. 7-14, 1947, and May, 1953.
77. SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes pusillus*.  
Casual. Reported August 30 to October 7, 1945 by Larry Crawford.
78. WESTERN SANDPIPER. *Ereunetes mauri*.  
Four were observed at close range on a small lake south of High Point on May 12, 1951 by James Mattocks and other members of the Catesby Bird Club.
79. HERRING GULL. *Larus argentatus*.  
Casual. Reported March 10, and April 29, 1945, and May 2, 1949.
80. RING-BILLED GULL. *Larus delawarensis*.  
Casual visitor. Often seen at the airport in April. From April 23-27, 1952 a flock of about 70 were seen feeding on popcorn at a drive-in-theatre north of Greensboro. Seven were reported on the 1948 Christmas count.
81. LAUGHING GULL. *Larus atricilla*.  
Rare casual. Reported on the 1951 spring count.
82. BONAPARTE'S GULL. *Larus philadelphia*.  
Rare casual. Four were reported April 26, 1947 on Lake Brandt and Richland Lake by Larry Crawford and the Medfords.
83. COMMON TERN. *Sterna hirundo*.  
Rare casual. Reported September 18, 1945 by Larry Crawford.
84. CASPIAN TERN. *Hydroprogne caspia*.  
Rare casual. Reported April 29, 1945 by Tom Zapf.
85. BLACK TERN. *Chlidonias nigra*.  
Uncommon fall migrant, August and September. One record April 29, 1945.
86. MOURNING DOVE. *Zenaidura macroura*.  
Common permanent resident.
87. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus americanus*.  
Fairly common summer resident, late April to late October.
88. BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.  
Uncommon transient, reported several times in May.
89. BARN OWL. *Tyto alba*.  
Permanent resident, seen most often at night.
90. SCREECH OWL. *Otus asio*.  
Fairly common permanent resident.
91. GREAT HORNED OWL. *Bubo virginianus*.  
Uncommon permanent resident. Reported in 1929, 1945, and on the 1953 Christmas count.
92. SNOWY OWL. *Nyctea scandiaca*.  
Occasionally wanders down from the north in January or February. Last reported in 1950.
93. BARRED OWL. *Strix varia*. Fairly common permanent resident.
94. LONG-EARED OWL. *Asio otus*. Reported by Pearson, December, 1901.
95. SHORT-EARED OWL. *Asio flammeus*.  
Reported by Pearson, January, 1902.
96. CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. *Caprimulgus carolinensis*.  
Uncommon summer visitor, reported several times on spring counts.
97. WHIP-POOR-WILL. *Caprimulgus vociferus*.  
Common summer resident, early April to October.
98. COMMON NIGHTHAWK. *Chordeiles minor*.  
Common summer resident, mid-April to mid-October.
99. CHIMNEY SWIFT. *Chaetura pelagica*.  
Common summer resident seen flying over-head from late March to late October. Numbers are increased in the fall by migrants.
100. RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. *Archilochus colubris*.  
Fairly common summer resident, April through September.
101. BELTED KINGFISHER. *Megasceryle alcyon*.  
Permanent resident, common near lakes.



102. YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. *Colaptes auratus*.  
Common permanent resident.
103. PILEATED WOODPECKER. *Dryocopus pileatus*.  
Permanent resident. Not often seen, but one can usually be found in the deep woods or swamps.
104. RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. *Centurus carolinus*.  
Common permanent resident. Increasing in numbers.
105. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*.  
Fairly common permanent resident.
106. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. *Sphyrapicus varius*.  
Common winter resident, early October to May.
107. HAIRY WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopus villosus*.  
Fairly common permanent resident.
108. DOWNY WOODPECKER. *Dendrocopus pubescens*.  
Common permanent resident.
109. EASTERN KINGBIRD. *Tyrannus tyrannus*.  
Fairly common summer resident, April to October.
110. GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER. *Myiarchus crinitus*.  
Common summer resident, mid-April through September.
111. EASTERN PHOEBE. *Sayornis phoebe*.  
Permanent resident, common near bridges where it often nests.
112. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax virescens*.  
Fairly common summer resident, late April to early September.
113. LEAST FLYCATCHER. *Empidonax minimus*.  
Casual. Reported on 1952 and 1953 spring counts.
114. EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. *Contopus virens*.  
Common summer resident, late April to early October.
115. HORNED LARK. *Eremophila alpestris*.  
Has extended its range until it is now a permanent resident. Common at the airport since 1941. The first nest was found there on May 9, 1948 by Oscar Paris and Hugh Medford, Jr.
116. TREE SWALLOW. *Iridoprocne bicolor*.  
Fairly common transient, late March to May, and in August.
117. BANK SWALLOW. *Riparia riparia*.  
Uncommon transient, April to May, and in September.
118. ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*.  
Our most common swallow. Summer resident, late March to mid-July.
119. BARN SWALLOW. *Hirundo rustica*.  
Fairly common transient, late April through May, and late August.
120. CLIFF SWALLOW. *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*.  
Rare transient, reported April 28 to May 19, 1945 and April 15, 1950.
121. PURPLE MARTIN. *Progne subis*.  
Summer resident, abundant where nesting sites are provided. Dr. Wesley Taylor says they begin to arrive early in March if the weather is favorable, and leave about the first week in August.
122. BLUE JAY. *Cyanocitta cristata*.  
Permanent resident. Abundant.
123. AMERICAN CROW. *Corvus brachyrhynchos*.  
Permanent resident. Abundant.
124. CAROLINA CHICKADEE. *Parus carolinensis*.  
Permanent resident. Abundant.
125. TUFTED TITMOUSE. *Parus bicolor*.  
Permanent resident. Abundant.
126. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta carolinensis*.  
Common permanent resident.
127. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. *Sitta canadensis*.  
Winter resident, late September to early May. More common some years than others.
128. BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH. *Sitta pusilla*.  
Permanent resident of open pine woods. May be increasing in numbers.

129. BROWN CREEPER. *Certhia familiaris*.  
Common winter resident, late September to early May.
130. HOUSE WREN. *Troglodytes aëdon*.  
Common summer resident, early April to early October.
131. WINTER WREN. *Troglodytes troglodytes*.  
Fairly common winter resident, early October through April. Hides in thickets and brush piles.
132. BEWICK'S WREN. *Thryomanes bewickii*.  
Casual visitor. Seen building nest, April 28, 1939 by Wade Fox. Several more recent March and April records, and one in the fall. August 26 to October 7, 1944.
133. CAROLINA WREN. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.  
Common permanent resident.
134. MARSH WREN (LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN). *Telmatorhynchus palustris*. Rare transient. Reported October 7, 1951 and May 4, 1952 at a small pond south of High Point by James Mattocks.
135. EASTERN MOCKINGBIRD. *Mimus polyglottos*.  
Abundant permanent resident.
136. CATBIRD. *Dumetella carolinensis*.  
Common summer resident, April to October. Reported on two Christmas counts.
137. BROWN THRASHER. *Toxostoma rufum*.  
Common summer resident, March to October, occasional in winter.
138. AMERICAN ROBIN. *Turdus migratorius*.  
Permanent resident. In summer they are common in town, but in winter they congregate in woods and swamps.
139. WOOD THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata*.  
Common summer resident, mid-April to October, Mrs. R. D. Douglas saw one Feb. 17, 1947.
140. HERMIT THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata*.  
Common winter resident, October to May. Earliest record is September 14, 1952.
141. SWAINSON'S THRUSH (OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH). *Hylocichla ustulata*. Transient, fairly common during May and October.
142. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. *Hylocichla ustulata*.  
Rare transient. Etta Schiffman saw one in her yard Oct. 14-18, 1952.
143. WILSON'S THRUSH (VEERY). *Hylocichla ustulata*.  
Fairly common transient, May and September.
144. COMMON BLUEBIRD. *Sialia sialis*.  
Common permanent resident.
145. BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. *Poliophtila caerulea*.  
Common summer resident, late March to mid-September.
146. GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus satrapa*.  
Common winter resident, mid-October to April.
147. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. *Regulus calendula*.  
Common winter resident, early October to May.
148. WATER PIPIT (AMERICAN PIPIT). *Anthus spinoletta*.  
Irregular winter visitor, October to May. Gather in flocks in open fields.
149. CEDAR WAXWING. *Bombicilla cedrorum*.  
Irregular visitor, October to June, more common than formerly. Often seen in flocks in trees feeding on berries. Nesting reported both in High Point and in Greensboro in June, 1950.
150. LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. *Lanius ludovicianus*.  
Common permanent resident.
151. STARLING. *Sturnus vulgaris*.  
Abundant permanent resident, first recorded in Greensboro on Feb. 29, 1920 by Elva Barrow.
152. WHITE-EYED VIREO. *Virco griseus*.  
Common summer resident, early April to October.

153. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. *Virco flavifrons*.  
Common summer resident, late March to October.
154. SOLITARY VIREO (BLUE-HEADED VIREO). *Virco solitarius*.  
Common summer resident, late March through October. One was reported on the 1951 Christmas count.
155. RED-EYED VIREO. *Virco olivaceus*.  
Common summer resident, early April to October.
156. PHILADELPHIA VIREO. *Virco philadelphicus*.  
Rare transient. One was seen at the Crafts Oct. 23, 1949, and one was reported on the 1953 spring count.
157. WARBLING VIREO. *Virco gilvus*.  
Uncommon transient, late April and early May.
158. BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. *Mniotilta varia*.  
Common summer resident, mid-March to mid-October. John McLeod, Jr., observed one in the oaks in his yard on Nov. 27, 1950 and again on Jan. 1, 1951.
159. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. *Protonotaria citrea*.  
Rare summer visitor. Reported April 13, 1929, and on the 1952 spring count.
160. WORM-EATING WARBLER. *Helmitheros vermivorus*.  
Uncommon summer visitor. It was reported by several different people in August and September, 1944, also in May, 1947 and 1948, and in June, 1951.
161. GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. *Vermivora chrysoptera*.  
Uncommon transient, reported several times in early May and twice in late August.
162. BLUE-WINGED WARBLER. *Vermivora pinus*.  
Rare transient, reported in September, 1944 and 1945.
163. TENNESSEE WARBLER. *Vermivora peregrina*.  
Rare migrant, reported in October, 1944 and May, 1945.
164. ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER. *Vermivora celata*.  
Reported for the first time by George Smith on the 1952 Christmas count.
165. NASHVILLE WARBLER. *Vermivora ruficapilla*.  
Rare transient, reported September, 1950 and May, 1952.
166. PARULA WARBLER. *Parula americana*.  
Fairly common during migrations. April and May, September and October. A few stay all summer.
167. YELLOW WARBLER. *Dendroica petechia*.  
Common summer resident, April to August.
168. MAGNOLIA WARBLER. *Dendroica magnolia*.  
Transient, late April and May, September and October. More common in the fall.
169. CAPE MAY WARBLER. *Dendroica tigrina*.  
Common transient, late April and May, mid-September to mid-October.
170. BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER. *Dendroica caerulescens*.  
Common transient, late April and May, September and October.
171. MYRTLE WARBLER. *Dendroica coronata*.  
Common winter resident, early October to mid-May.
172. BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. *Dendroica virens*.  
Fairly common transient, April and May, September and October.
173. CERULEAN WARBLER. *Dendroica cerulea*.  
Uncommon transient, reported on several spring counts. An adult feeding young was seen in the summer of 1929 by E. E. and F. R. Brown.
174. BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. *Dendroica fusca*.  
Fairly common transient, reported in May, September, and October.
175. YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. *Dendroica dominica*.  
Common summer resident, late March to early October.
176. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. *Dendroica pennsylvanica*.  
Fairly common migrant, late April to mid-May, late August to October.

177. BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. *Dendroica castanea*.  
Rare migrant, reported in May and October.
178. BLACK-POLL WARBLER. *Dendroica striata*.  
Common migrant, late April to early June, also in October.
179. PINE WARBLER. *Dendroica pinus*.  
Common permanent resident.
180. PRAIRIE WARBLER. *Dendroica discolor*.  
Common summer resident from early April through September.
181. WESTERN PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum palmarum*.  
Gmelin. Rare migrant. Oscar Paris reported one on December 26, 1946 in low shrubbery, two on March 11 and two on April 4, 1947 about twelve feet away.
182. YELLOW PALM WARBLER. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*.  
Ridgway. Fairly common migrant, late March to early May, and in October.
183. OVEN-BIRD. *Sciurus aurocapillus*.  
Common summer resident, from mid-April to mid-October.
184. SMALL-BILLED WATER THRUSH (NORTHERN WATER THRUSH). *Sciurus noveboracensis*. Rare transient. Reported Sept. 4-18, 1944 and September 13, 1953.
185. LOUISIANA WATER THRUSH. *Sciurus motacilla*.  
Fairly common summer resident, late March to June.
186. KENTUCKY WARBLER. *Oporornis formosus*.  
Summer resident, not often seen. Reported on 1952 and 1953 spring counts. A nesting pair was observed from May 21 to June 6, 1950 in the woods behind the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Swart.
187. CONNECTICUT WARBLER. *Oporornis agilis*.  
Rare transient. One was seen Sept. 24, 1944 by George Smith.
188. YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas*.  
Common summer resident, late March to mid-October. Tom Street saw one on Dec. 29, 1951.
189. YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. *Icteria virens*.  
Common summer resident, late April to October.
190. HOODED WARBLER. *Wilsonia citrina*.  
Common summer resident, early April to mid-September.
191. CANADA WARBLER. *Wilsonia canadensis*.  
Uncommon transient. They have been reported in May, 1949, 1951, and 1952, and on August 31, 1944.
192. AMERICAN REDSTART. *Setophaga ruticilla*.  
Common summer resident, early April through October.
193. HOUSE SPARROW (ENGLISH SPARROW). *Passer domesticus*.  
Abundant permanent resident.
194. BOBOLINK. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*.  
Uncommon transient, April and May, September and October.
195. COMMON MEADOWLARK. *Sturnella magna*.  
Common permanent resident.
196. RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. *Agelaius phoeniceus*.  
Permanent resident, common in swampy areas.
197. ORCHARD ORIOLE. *Icterus spurius*.  
Fairly common summer resident in low, open second growth, April to July.
198. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula*.  
Fairly common transient, April and May, one August record. Since 1949 they have been reported several times at feeding stations during the winter.
199. RUSTY BLACKBIRD. *Euphagus carolinus*.  
Transient, March to May, September to October, increasing in numbers. A few spend the winter.
200. COMMON GRACKLE. *Quiscalus quiscula*.  
Fairly common permanent resident. In September, 1952 a large migrating flock was reported.

201. COMMON COWBIRD. *Molothrus ater*.  
Irregular visitor. Reported on about half of the Christmas counts, and on several spring counts. June 5 is the latest date on which an adult has been seen. Young have been reported with Chipping Sparrows, Redstarts, Solitary and Red-eyed Vireos, Pewees, Acadian Flycatchers, and Parula Warblers.
202. SCARLET TANAGER. *Piranga olivacea*.  
Fairly common transient, a few stay all summer. Reported from early April to late October.
203. SUMMER TANAGER. *Piranga rubra*.  
Common summer resident, from mid-April through September.
204. CARDINAL. *Richmondia cardinalis*.  
One of the most common birds at all seasons.
205. ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. *Pheneticus ludovicianus*.  
Fairly common transient, late April to early May, and October.
206. BLUE GROSBEAK. *Guiraca caerulea*.  
Fairly common summer resident, late April to October.
207. INDIGO BUNTING. *Passerina cyanea*.  
Fairly common summer resident, late April to October.
208. EVENING GROSBEAK. *Hesperiphona vespertina*.  
Rare casual. Reported in High Point March 4, and 19, 1946, and in Greensboro April 3, 1946, and March 4, 1952.
209. PURPLE FINCH. *Carpodacus purpureus*.  
Fairly common but irregular winter visitor, November to May. Often seen in flocks feeding in trees on seeds.
210. REDPOLL. *Acanthus flammea*.  
Rare casual. John Carr reported that several were seen in yards in and around Greensboro from Dec. 26, 1946 to Feb. 8, 1947.
211. PINE SISKIN. *Spinus pinus*.  
Irregular winter visitor from November to May. Often in flocks feeding on seeds of pine cones.
212. AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. *Spinus tristis*.  
Common permanent resident. Its numbers are increased in April and May in large flocks of migrants.
213. RED CROSSBILL. *Loxia curvirostra*.  
Rare casual. A small flock was reported Jan. 31, 1953 by George Smith in the pines near his home. Later they were seen by others at different times until May 20.
214. EASTERN TOWHEE. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*.  
Common permanent resident.
215. SAVANNAH SPARROW. *Passerculus sandwichensis*.  
Common winter resident, but not easily seen in the grassy fields where it is usually found. November to May.
216. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW. *Ammodramus savannarum*.  
Summer resident, open fields, April to October.
217. HENSLOW'S SPARROW. *Passerherbulus henslowii*.  
Rare transient, reported in April, the most recent being April 2, 1947 when two were seen by the Crafts and John Trott, Jr.
218. VESPER SPARROW. *Poocetes gramineus*.  
Uncommon winter visitor, November to late April.
219. BACHMAN'S SPARROW. *Aimophila aestivalis*.  
Fairly common summer resident in open fields with pines and bushes, not easily seen because it stays on the ground. Reported from late March through June.
220. SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. *Junco hyemalis*.  
Abundant winter resident, often seen in large flocks, October to mid-May.
221. OREGON JUNCO. *Junco oreganus*.  
Accidental. George Smith observed one on his feeding station for about three weeks in January and February, 1948.

222. AMERICAN TREE SPARROW. *Spizella arborea*.  
Rare winter visitor, reported on one Christmas count and on a field trip in March, 1943.
223. CHIPPING SPARROW. *Spizella passerina*.  
Common summer resident, March to November. Occasionally a few stay all winter.
224. FIELD SPARROW. *Spizella pusilla*.  
Common permanent resident of field and open country. They often gather in flocks during the winter.
225. WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia leucophrys*.  
Rare casual. Not definitely established until the 1953 Christmas count when an adult was clearly seen at close range by Tom Street and John McLeod, Jr.
226. WHITE THROATED SPARROW. *Zonotrichia albicollis*.  
Common winter resident from early October to May. Latest record is June 17, 1944 at Old Mill Camp.
227. FOX SPARROW. *Passercella iliaca*.  
Fairly common winter resident, mid-November to April.
228. LINCOLN'S SPARROW. *Melospiza lincolni*.  
Accidental. Wetmore reports an immature female shot on Troublesome Creek, seven miles south of Reidsville on Sept. 23, 1939.
229. SWAMP SPARROW. *Melospiza georgiana*.  
Common winter resident in swampy areas, but hard to see. Late October to early May.
230. SONG SPARROW. *Melospiza melodia*.  
Now a permanent resident, although formerly seen only in winter. The first nest was found by Tom Zapf on April 24, 1945 in an ever-green tree in the Lake Daniel area. Common.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *The Chat*, v. 1-18, 1937-1954.
2. Pearson, F. Gilbert, C. S. Brimley, and H. H. Brimley, *Birds of North Carolina*. N. C. Dept. of Agriculture. 1942.
3. Simpson, Thomas W., B. Rhett Chamberlain, and Thomas L. Quay. Check List of Common Names for Use in the Carolinas. *The Chat* 17: 35-39 (June) 1953.
4. Sprunt, Alexander, Jr. and E. Burnham Chamberlain. *South Carolina Bird Life*. Univ. of S. C. Press, Columbia, S. C. 1949.
5. Wetmore, Alexander. Notes on the birds of North Carolina. *U. S. Nat. Mus. Proceedings* 1941, v. 90, p. 483-530.

### The 1953 Christmas Bird Count: Addendum.

WINDOM, YANCEY COUNTY, N. C. Five Year Score: 23/7; 24/4; 26/4; 25/4; 33/4. Dec. 29; heavily cloudy all day; temp. 35°-50°. Same area in past 16 years plus a secluded cove abounding in wild grapes, polk berries, smilax, etc. Four observers in two parties obtained an excellent count in this high mountain area. Of the total count of 33 species, the Ruffed Grouse, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush were not found on the preceding four Christmas counts. Killdeer and the Black-billed Cuckoo found in the 1949 census have not been found on any of the following counts, and Meadowlarks have not been recorded in a Windom census since 1950. H. Grady Bailey, Paul Hughes, James Hutchins (compiler), and Wade Styles.

---

We record with deepest sorrow the passing of Mrs. Joseph B. Whitener in Germany on April 9, 1954. "Boo" was Treasurer of CBC in 1952-53 and had many hundreds of friends in CBC. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew her. We extend our sympathy to her family.—Ed.

---

# LATE SUMMER BIRDS OF THE BLACK MOUNTAINS OF NORTH CAROLINA

MERRILL P. SPENCER

Among the varied types of bird life that the Carolinas have to offer, none seems quite so unique as the summer birds of the higher mountains. Here at distinctly southern latitudes, one finds plants and animals otherwise commonly existing 500 to 1,000 miles to the north. This southward extension of the ranges of the northern birds offers interesting possibilities to the casual birder, as well as to the scientist, for investigation in this region.

The late summer birds of the Black Mountains are for the most part nesting birds which have finished their domestic duties and are ranging up and down these high mountain slopes before the migration season. A list of these birds may be broken down into two groups as follows: Group I, to include those species which during the summer season are confined to the mountain region, and at that time are not seen in the piedmont; and Group II, to include those species which may be found in the mountain region, but whose ranges also extend into the piedmont and coastal regions of the Carolinas.

The term "vertical range" is used to denote the altitude levels over which any one of the birds is ordinarily found. The vertical ranges, like the horizontal ranges of these mountain birds in the southern Appalachians, are narrow ones, and in many instances may be visualized as islands of residence above the sea of warm summer air which stretches out over the valleys and plains below. They are so confined by their peculiar needs for the type of supporting vegetation and insect life which is found in their particular vertical range. In many cases, however, the late summer ranges are extensions of the more restricted breeding ranges.

The terrain covered by this study was forested steep mountain slopes, except for some pastures and farmland along the lower valleys. Four distinct qualitative variations in vegetation now clothe these ancient mountains. Beginning at the top we find from the mountain peaks down to approximately 6,200 feet covered with almost pure coniferous forest, representative of the Canadian life zone. The dark green foliage of this boreal forest of spruce and fir ends abruptly in an irregular line as it contrasts with the light green cover of the cut-over area. The latter, extending down to approximately 5,200 feet, exists because of the unmerciful cutting of its timber in the early 1900's, and the ravages of fires. Quick to grow, and covering this area at present, are such deciduous underbrush as fire cherry, elderberry, blackberry, etc. Beginning at the lower limits of the cut-over area, we find a transitional zone vegetation extending downward and gradually changing until it reaches the piedmont. This transitional growth around the 5,000 feet parkway level, includes northern hardwoods interrupted with fine stands of red spruce. Below 4,500 feet, we find the more southern species of hardwoods as well as a notable number of hemlocks, particularly along the lower stream beds. The principal undergrowth at all levels except the cut-over area is rhododendron.

The total period of this study extended from August 11 to August 21, 1953. This eleven day stay in the mountains was essentially a continuous intensive field trip implemented by camping on the upper and lower slopes of the Black Mountain Range. During the first eight days our tent was pitched in the midst of the spruce-fir forest at an altitude of 6,300 feet. There, through the hospitality and helpfulness extended by Park Superintendent John Wilson, Ranger Vernie Murphy, and other park personnel, we enjoyed the excellent camping facilities of Mount Mitchell State Park.

A large part of every day was spent in seeking birds in as many different types of terrain as could be found. All observations were made by Mrs. Spencer and myself, using 7 x 35 and 8 x 40 binoculars, respectively. Each morning we rose with the sun for a pre-breakfast walk to take full advantage of the avian activity at this time of day. We were usually awakened in the morning by little groups of Golden-crowned Kinglets or Red-breasted Nuthatches in the branches above our tent.

Our active birding hours during these first eight days were equally divided between the spruce-fir forest of the mountain tops, (6,200 to 6,684 feet) including the adjoining cut-over area, and the transitional zone of northern hardwood forest at the parkway level (5,000 to 5,300 feet) and including the lower portion of the cut-over area.

The last three days of this period of study were spent with our tent pitched in Carolina Hemlock National Park. This park is located on the banks of the South Toe River which drains the eastern slopes of the Black Range.

Since our time was equally divided between the three levels (6,200 to 6,684, 5,000 to 5,300, and 2,700 to 3,300) the number of each species that we found at each of the levels is an index of the relative density of population at each respective level.

From the literature and our own observations we have found 19 species classified as Group 1, i.e., those confined to the higher mountains during the summer months, and 34 species classified as Group II. This classification excludes many more species found at 2,700 to 3,300 feet and lower, but which do not range up to 5,000 to 5,300 feet.

*View of Clingmans Peak in the Black Mountains of North Carolina. Taken from the Blue Ridge Parkway at Ridge Junction. (5000 ft.) Photographed by Dr. M. P. Spencer.*





Groups I and II are listed in the following table:

(The dashed lines mean that the species is not found at that particular level. An "0" means that the species occurs at that level but was not found by us.)

Altitudes Investigated				Altitudes Investigated			
6,200- 5,000- 2,700-				6,200- 5,000- 2,700-			
6,684 ft. 5,300 ft. 3,300 ft.				6,684 ft. 5,300 ft. 3,300 ft.			
Group I				Red-headed			
(A.)				Woodpecker	0	0	0
Brown Creeper	20	—	—	Hairy Woodpecker	1	0	0
Winter Wren	4	—	—	Downy Woodpecker	1	0	2
(B.)				Blue Jay	0	2	13
Common Raven	9	8	—	Carolina Chickadee	0	2	4
Red-breasted				Carolina Wren	0	1	3
Nuthatch	25	14	—	Catbird	12	52	5
Golden-crowned				American Robin	3	7	22
Kinglet	45	12	—	Cedar Waxwing	22	35	5
Black-throated				Black & White			
Blue Warbler	12	13	—	Warbler	3	5	10
Rose-breasted				Pine Warbler	0	0	0
Grosbeak	28	6	—	American Redstart	0	0	6
Red Crossbill	1	0	—	Scarlet Tanager	1	2	1
Carolina Junco	100's	100's	—	Indigo Bunting	0	1	0
(C.)				American Goldfinch	3	5	6
Ruffed Grouse	0	0	0	Eastern Towhee	10+	4+	3
Cliff Swallow	20+	0	0	Song Sparrow	5	0	19
Solitary Vireo	1	6	18	(B.)			
Black-throated				Red-tailed Hawk	—	3	0
Green Warbler	40	6	3	Sparrow Hawk	—	0	0
Blackburnian Warbler	1	10	6	Bob-white	—	0	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	3	6	Barred Owl	—	0	0
Canada Warbler	5	6	6	Yellow-shafted			
(D.)				Flicker	—	0	0
Yellow-bellied				Eastern Wood Pewee	—	4	15
Sapsucker	—	2	—	Tufted Titmouse	—	6	6
Veery	—	0	—	Brown Thrasher	—	0	1
Baltimore Oriole	—	2	—	Wood Thrush	—	0	6
Group II				Common Bluebird	—	0	12
(A.)				Yellow-breasted			
Turkey Vulture	0	0	0	Chat	—	0	0
Broad-winged Hawk	0	2	0	Hooded Warbler	—	0	0
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	0	0	0	Field Sparrow	—	0	14
Ruby-throated							
Hummingbird	3	7	43				

The Brown Creeper and the Winter Wren which have the narrowest vertical ranges, are found only at the top of the mountains in the fringe of spruce-fir forest. However, they are common, and easily located. We recorded 20 Brown Creepers and four Winter Wrens by sight. The delicate tinkling song of the Winter Wren came to us soon after we awakened in the morning and was heard frequently throughout the day. These two species plus the 14 listed in sections (B.) & (C.) under Group I were all recorded in the spruce-fir forest. As a matter of fact, at least one specimen of each of these species was seen right at our higher campsite, with the exception of the Ruffed Grouse and the Red Crossbill.

The Red Crossbill, recorded but once by us, is listed with seven birds whose vertical summer ranges extend from the summit down to the transitional zone at 5,000 feet. The Crossbill's probable breeding range, like that of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, extends band-like around the ranges, excluding the peaks and the lower valleys. During the late summer months they wander to the tops of the mountains. The wandering flocks of Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks seen by us in the spruce-fir forest were devoid of mature males. However, one was seen at the 5,000 foot level. The Black-throated Blue Warbler similarly extends from its breeding range in the cut-over area, to the forest openings of the mountain tops.

The Common Raven, the Red-breasted Nuthatch, and the Golden-crowned Kinglet contrast with the previous three birds by nesting high in the

coniferous forests, and afterwards scattering down the slopes to the 5,000-5,300 foot level. We found it fascinating to watch the aerial battles between the Ravens and Red-tailed Hawks from higher vantage points.

The Slate-colored Junco (Carolina Junco) apparently wanders little below its breeding range which caps all the mountains down to approximately 3,500 feet. The lower limit is open to easy investigation by anyone traveling along the Blue Ridge Parkway, as the highway dips in and out of the range of this extremely abundant species.

Seven more species (Group I, (C.)) were found whose vertical ranges extend from the upper reaches down to the 2,700 foot level. We were disappointed in being unable to locate even a single Ruffed Grouse. The Cliff Swallows, which roost in the lower valleys were seen feeding high over the peak of Mt. Mitchell. They do not nest in the Black Mountains, but they form an interesting part of this region during the late summer months. The relative numbers of Solitary Vireos seen at each level, indicates a clear preference by this species for the lower altitudes. Counts of Black-throated Green Warblers, in contrast, demonstrate their preference for the boreal forests. The Blackburnian Warbler, which nests between 3,500 feet and 5,000 feet, demonstrates its reluctance to leave its breeding range, and is therefore more likely to be seen at this altitude. The Chestnut-sided Warbler is most easily found at the lower levels, while chances of ones finding a Canada Warbler at this time of year are equally good at all levels listed.

In section (D.) of Group I we find three species which are rather sharply limited in their vertical ranges. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Veery nest at the level indicated. I would like to emphasize the opportunity we have to hear the beautiful song of the Veery. To hear him, one should visit the parkway at about 5,000 feet sometime before the end of July, as his song ceases by the end of that month. The exact status of the Baltimore Oriole in the North Carolina mountain region bears further investigation. *Birds of North Carolina*<sup>1</sup> states that this species is not seen east of the Blue Ridge. Burleigh,<sup>2</sup> in his extensive five year investigation of the birds of Mt. Mitchell, never recorded it at any season.

Turning briefly to the birds of Group II, we find 34 piedmont and lowland species whose ranges extend up to or beyond 5,000 feet. Of these, 13 limit their upper ranges to the 5,000 to 5,300 foot level. One bird of this group (5), the Scarlet Tanager which was seen by us, is of interest because of its absence from Burleigh's records of this region.

The summer vertical range of the Indigo Bunting is of peculiar interest, though the upper limit of its breeding range is not known. The male only ranges to the summits just during the month of July and sings each day from the upper branches of the larger trees, while the females and young are limited to the 5,000 foot level.

The remaining 21 birds in Group II extend their vertical ranges into the spruce-fir forests. It must be concluded that these lowland birds occurring at the upper mountain slopes do so on account of their high degree of adaptability.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 1 *Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley & Brimley
- 2 *Bird Life on Mt. Mitchell*, Burleigh, Thomas D., Auk 58: 334, 941.



## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAYER, Department Editor

Notes continue to come in to this department on albinism in our common songbirds. This has been a most interesting study to me. (I would like to have suggestions from our readers for other topics that could be handled in a similar manner.) Since the last issue of this bulletin, I have received the following reports:

Mr. Louis LeConte, of a neighboring community, recently told me of his having seen a partial albino Junco in the yard of his home on Christmas day. This bird was almost all white, except for brown markings on his head and back and wings. Mr. LeConte said it appeared to be larger than the other Juncos. In fact, we discussed the possibility of it having been a Snow Bunting, but gave up that idea after a close study of our books.

One of the Rural Route mail carriers described a Robin that had had a white band around his neck. Mr. C. T. Weston of Congaree (about ten miles from here) told me about a "blonde Robin", that appeared to be a light tan or cream-colored all over.

From North Carolina, a letter from Mr. Clinnard at Hickory tells of a partial albino Cardinal. He says, "She is definitely a female cardinal. She has a wide white band around her neck extending about half way down on her breast, and a white rump patch."

E. M. Hodel, of Elkin, N. C., writing for Mr. Hendren and himself says: "We went out Saturday afternoon and saw a rather unusual bird, both flying and at close range, sitting. It was a partial albino Hermit Thrush. The breast, instead of being light, was cinnamon colored, and had the usual Hermit Thrush markings. The tail and back were practically white, so that in flying it gave the illusion of a large white bird. We were able to spot it on the ground, for it is comparatively tame and identification was easy. The farmer on whose land this bird was found reported that this is the second winter that it has been here, and that it always stays in about the approximate area in which we saw it. This thrush was feeding on sumach berries in the company of a small flock of Robins." (This bird was seen on February 6, 1954.) Mr. Hodel also reported an albino Robin at Elkin from March 13 to 20, 1954.

Again from North Carolina comes the following item:

Since our home is located in woodland on the edge of a golf course, we have been very fortunate in the variety of birds attracted to our backyard sanctuary. Predominant in numbers during the winter months are, of course, the Juncos, which more than most birds, I think, look like they have all been cut from the same pattern. This past winter, however, one appeared which certainly stood out from the crowd. A mature male of the familiar deep slate color, this Junco had pure white cheeks very much like a Chickadee, and a white bib. Arriving in early January, he patronized our feeders regularly each day, several times a day. In every

other respect, except for the white markings, he was just like all the other Juncos . . . flesh-colored bill, slate-colored head and back, light underparts, and white feathers in his tail. He is still coming daily at this writing (March 8). It will be interesting to watch for his return next year.—HAZEL KEPLER (MRS. REGINALD KEPLER), *Hope Valley, Durham, N. C.*

How many of you have had some child bring you a baby bird to care for, and you have been completely ignorant as to the best plan to follow? I, for one, have had no luck with baby birds, they always die in spite of everything I can do. So I was delighted when someone sent me a copy of the little bulletin, the *EBBA NEWS*, containing an article in which a letter from Mrs. Robert A. Arny, 149 Watchung Avenue, Upper Montclair, N. J., is quoted. (March 1953, page 7) Mrs. Arny writes that the very best thing we can do is to teach the children and others to leave the little birds where they find them. However, some will always be brought to the person known to be interested in birds, so for our information she gives the following advice: "Young birds thrive best on chopped lean meat and whole wheat bread, and a minimum of water. Raptores should have horse meat with feathers (from the poultry market) cut up fine and mixed in. Crows, jays and other omnivores like canned dog food. Grated raw carrots should be added to the diet of all but birds of prey. It supplies calcium for bone and feather building. Witch hazel is the best thing I have found for treating bruises, and wounds should be bathed with ST37. Above all, with young birds, avoid chilling."

**Random Birding on Critter Hill.**—Last summer we clocked the calls of Whip-poor-wills and Chuck-will's-widows. We were after first hand knowledge of their calling rates, since the authorities seemed to differ so widely. And we weren't very long in finding out why they differ. As we suspected, the individual birds have their own rates and they are not constant. There is a marked slowing up as the season progresses. The Whip-poor-wills were always faster than the Chucks and seemed to keep at it longer. Early in the season, both species stayed close by the house; Occasionally one would sit along the main ridge of our roof. But by September we strained our ears to hear them away off in the deeper woods. Early in the season they were heard from dusk to dawn, diminishing in the wee hours. For late departure records, early dawn is the time to listen. Or so it is with us. Our most important find was the new voices among the Whip-poor-wills in September - the Chucks were not heard after July 17. The strange voices were unlike the ones we had been timing, in pitch. One of them said "whip-poor-wheel." Were they migrants that had summered to the north of us, or were they birds of the year in the learning stage? They didn't sound very proficient and not at all comfortable.

Statistics: May 16, 1953; beginning at 2:03 a.m.; temperature 62°. Whip-poor-will - In ten series of 60 second counts on the same bird, the average calling rate was 45.5 calls per minute. A similar set of ten series on a Chuck-will's-widow on the same night, starting at 4:22 a.m., averaged 29.1 calls per minute. For these two individuals, the Whip-poor-will called 1.6 times faster than the Chuck-will's-widow. That was in May. By mid-July both species had slowed down appreciably. Also, we seldom heard more than ten uninterrupted calls, making the timing less accurate. The Whip-poor-wills' rate was under 40 calls per minute.

The Whip-poor-wills must have moved out about September 16. On that date, three birds called simultaneously. During the several preceding weeks we had heard but one at a time, and seldom at that.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C., December 31, 1953.*

---

Does anyone in or out of CBC happen to have an extra copy of *Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley & Brimley, which he or she would like to present to the editor of *The Chat*? It will become the property of CBC and will be passed on to each succeeding incumbent. The present editors have donated a copy of *South Carolina Bird Life*, Sprunt & Chamberlain, for this purpose.—Ed.

## IN MEMORIAM



JOHN WASHINGTON PEARCE SMITHWICK was born in Bertie Co., N. C., on August 19, 1870. He attended the University of North Carolina and was graduated from the University of Maryland in 1895 with the Doctor of Medicine degree. Dr. Smithwick married Sallie Thompson of Aurora in 1896 and practiced medicine in Aurora until February 1898, when the young couple moved to LaGrange and made their permanent home. Dr. Smithwick was a prominent physician and community leader in LaGrange for fifty-five years, serving as town mayor for 20 years. He continued active in his medical work into his eighty-third year, retiring only last year after a short illness. Dr.

Smithwick is survived by his wife, three children and three grandchildren, all of whom were with him when he passed away on March 17, 1954.

As a boy and young man in Bertie Co., John Smithwick studied the local bird life intensively and corresponded with the Brimleys of Raleigh, John Cairns of Weaverville, R. B. McLaughlin of Statesville, and others. He published his first ornithology papers in 1891, and in 1897 wrote "The Ornithology of North Carolina," a N. C. State College Experiment Station bulletin enumerating 303 forms.

During the past several years, Dr. Smithwick was an enthusiastic Supporting Member of the Carolina Bird Club, personally accounting for several dozen new memberships. His interest in the birds about him never flagged, as shown by his "Backyard Birding" observations published on page 58 of the September 1952 *Chat*.

Dr. Smithwick's final contribution to North Carolina ornithology came with the publication, in the December 1952 *Chat*, of his "Birds of Bertie County Sixty Years Ago." This paper contains much hitherto unpublished information and stands as a rare and valuable record of the former bird life in that region. Dr. Smithwick's painstaking scholarship is well illustrated in this paper, which he wrote for the first time, at my request, in early 1952 from his good and carefully preserved notes made over 60 years ago. Dr. Smithwick graciously carried the manuscript through four revisions, and then generously and anonymously paid for the entire cost of its printing.

The following telegram was sent to Mrs. Smithwick at LaGrange on March 22:

The Carolina Bird Club extends to you its deepest sympathies and treasures the memory of Dr. Smithwick as friend, physician, and ornithologist.—T. L. QUAY.

---

### SPRING FIELD TRIP AT EDISTO ISLAND

About 90 members and guests of CBC enjoyed a fine outing at the Ocean Villa on Edisto Beach, S. C., April 23-25, 1954. Field trips Saturday to different parts of the island, on the beaches, Edisto State Park and to Botany Bay netted 105 species. Nests of the Wilson's Plover and Willet were found and photographed.

Saturday evening after a short meeting, Gordon Brown of the S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept., showed movies he had taken on the mid-winter field trip to Pea Island, N. C. This was followed by an excellent hour-long movie of wildlife in the Great Smokies by Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Baldwin of Catlin, Illinois.

# SAFETY FACTOR IN A HANGING NEST

B. R. CHAMBERLAIN

## Synopsis.

This paper presents facts developed in testing the load capacity of a nest of a Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*). A load-displacement relationship is determined and a Safety Factor is indicated.

## Material.

The nest selected for testing had been built on an *outer*<sup>1</sup> branch of a large hickory tree, 16 feet from the trunk and some 12 feet above the ground. In place of the usual fork, parallel twigs from the same branch had been chosen by the builders,<sup>2</sup> giving a less stable support than would have been found in a fork. Fully 40 per cent of the perimeter of the nest was unsupported. The nest proper, seemed to be representative for the species. The two twigs from which it was suspended were separated by a distance of 11 centimeters at their point of attachment along the branch. The center of the nest was approximately 29 cms., from the branch on one twig, and 18 cms., from the branch on the other twig.

The nest measured approximately five cms., in inside diameter, with an inside depth of 5½ cms. The walls were about 1½ cms., thick. It was composed almost entirely of cedar bark with a generous covering of lichens. Both bark and lichens were bound firmly in place with spider silk. The lining was of fine grass.

A careful analysis of the material made by Sarah Nooe of Queens College faculty shows: lichen and bark, 8.0 grams; grass, 1.1 grams; paper and cloth, 1.0 grams; dust particles, 1.1 grams. Total weight of nest stripped from supports, 11.2 grams or 0.4 ounce.

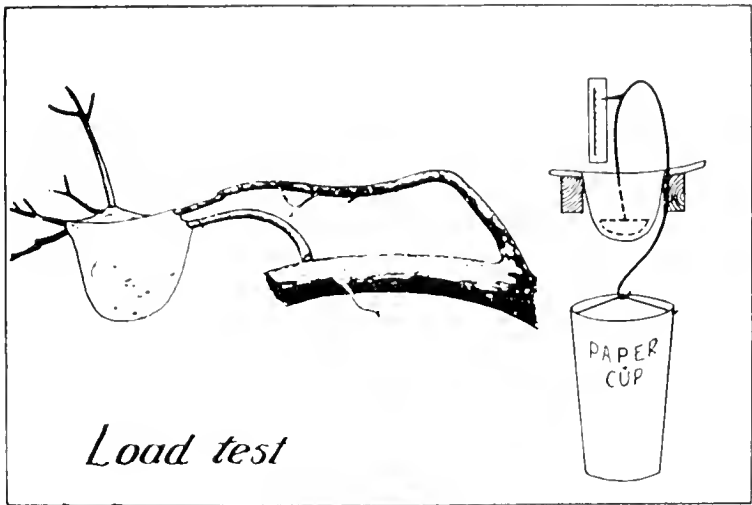
The bark was in well shredded strips. There were three small pieces of paper. It was heavy, soft, and slate-colored. The cloth was a single narrow piece of white cotton, 32 cms., long. It was not exposed in the completed nest. By count, 550 pieces of fine grass were separated. They ranged upward to 17.6 cms., and probably averaged five cms., in length. Most of it was grass tops and some seed pods were still attached. The lichen was similar to that found in abundance on the hickory tree from which the nest was taken. However, it possibly was gathered along with the bark from an old lichens-covered cedar which stands 160 feet from the nest site.

Although the use of lichens is generally associated with camouflage, the extra spider silk that bound it in place strengthened the over-all structure considerably. Attachment to the twigs was accomplished almost entirely by the use of silk. The species of spider providing the silk was not determined, but web of the large Garden Spider was available in quantity within 90 feet of the nest.

## Method.

The nest was collected at Matthews, N. C., May 30 1953 twelve days after a brood of three had left it. Deflection of the twigs during weighting was prevented by placing fixed supports under the four points immediately adjacent to the nest. Vertical loading was applied inside the nest by pressure against a footing of plaster of Paris that had been poured into

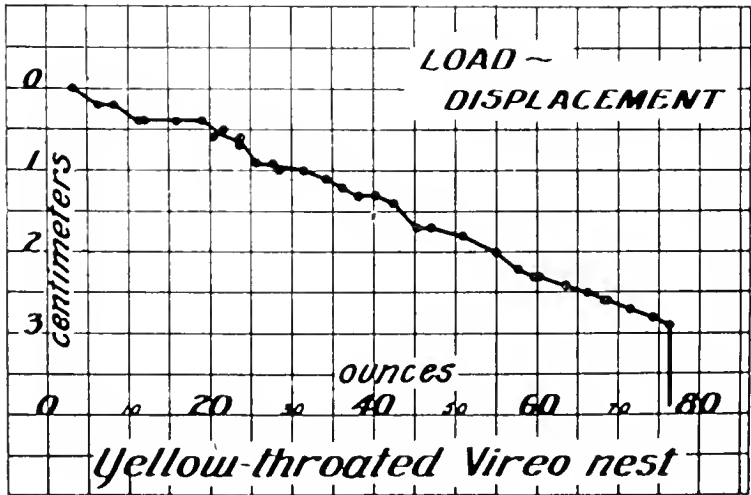
a form fitted cup of tin foil. The loading rig weighed 3.4 ounces, and produced no appreciable displacement after initial settling. Loading weights consisted of water and bits of lead.



**Results.**

Total failure of the nest occurred under a load of 76.1 ounces (4.75 pounds). At that point a displacement of 2.9 centimeters had been reached.

The load-displacement graph shows a fairly fixed stage in the 10 to 25 ounce range. Beyond that, the relationship is direct all of the way to the point of failure, as indicated by the strength line. No real elasticity was observed beyond the initial loadings, and any displacement appeared to be permanent. Failure began midway down one side of the nest where minor tearing was first noted under a load of 45 ounces (2.8 pounds). The displacement at this load was 1.7 cms.



**Conclusions.**

Apparently a load approaching the ultimate load may have been supported for an extended period. Displacement seemed to be accompanied by a re-arrangement of fibers rather than by breaking. Assuming that the nest was undamaged up to the point of minor tearing, we are dealing with an allowable load in the order of 45 ounces.

The weight of the three grown nestlings and a single adult Yellow-throated Vireo is taken as three ounces. This is based upon data from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.<sup>1</sup> Activities of the group would not have changed the total weight materially. However, the *live load* due to sudden lifting of the branch by wind could have doubled the static load and subjected the nest to a six ounce load<sup>4</sup>. With an allowable load of 45 ounces, the Safety Factor for the nest examined is 45/6, or 7½.

Had the maximum brood of five been raised;<sup>5</sup> the Safety Factor would have dropped to five.

The period during which this nest was built and occupied was abnormally dry. What effect this had upon the measured strength of the nest is unknown.

For a structure that was built for a month's use,<sup>6</sup> this pair of Yellow-throated Vireos built well.—Matthews, N. C., March 15, 1954.

#### NOTES:

1. This is contrary to a key character given in *Key to the Nests of the Common Summer-Resident Birds of Northeastern North America*. (1925)—A. A. Allen.

2. Both sexes participate in nest building. *Life Histories of North American Weytails, Shrikes, Vireos, and their Allies*. (1950)—A. C. Bent.

3. Chandler S. Robbins. *mms* (1954).

4. Any standard text on dynamics.

5. Same source as note No. 2.

6. *Ibid*. Re-use of nest extremely rare.

[This paper was presented at the Annual Meeting of CBC on March 20, 1954 at High Point, N. C.—Ed.]

---

## Annual Meeting of the Carolina Bird Club

We had a splendid meeting at High Point, North Carolina, on March 20, 1954. The Catesby Bird Club was host to CBC members—the regular migrants, casuals, and accidentals—who enjoyed a program that attested to thorough planning and preparation. A stimulating program of papers by CBC members occupied the morning session, called to order by the President, Robert Overing, and conducted by Rhett Chamberlain. Dr. Thomas L. Quay reviewed the work on Mourning Dove feeding habits in North Carolina and Dr. Merrill P. Spencer discussed the distribution of late summer residents in the Mount Mitchell region. Mr. Chamberlain then presented a unique analysis of the weight-bearing capacity of a Yellow-throated Vireo nest. The last paper was presented by Mr. Gordon Brown of the South Carolina Wildlife Department, who spoke on the status of the Eastern Turkey.

Following an excellent luncheon served in the meeting place at the YMCA, the program was continued with an informal presentation of color films by Mr. and Mrs. Matt Thompson and Mr. Bill Joyner. The films and commentary on the Purple Gallinule at Lake Ellis were an outstanding feature of the meeting. The final paper was by Dr. Quay, who gave a graphic account of the publication of *The Chat*—from manuscript to mailing date.

At the business session, in addition to reports and election of officers, Mr. W. L. McAtee of Chapel Hill, an outstanding wildlife authority, was elected Honorary Member for Life on the nomination of Mr. Matt Thompson.

Tea was held for the membership at the home of Mrs. C. B. Mattocks near High Point. Well-conducted tours of historical places, formal gardens, and wild-flower gardens were held during the latter part of the afternoon. The dinner meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. at the YMCA. Mr. Overing accepted a gift from the executive committee as retiring President and recognition was given the Catesby Bird Club. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Wendell P. Smith, now of North Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Mr. Smith gave a thorough account of the natural history of Vermont based on his years of experience as state ornithologist. He concluded his talk with a color film on Vermont.—THOMAS W. SIMPSON, *Sec'y.*, Winston-Salem, N. C.



## BOOKS

*The Web of Life*. John H. Storer. 144 pages; plus 44 pages of photographs. \$3.00. The Devin-Adair Co., N. Y. 1953.

The conservation and wise use of our renewable natural resources—soils, waters, plants, and wildlife—are rapidly becoming matters of increasing understanding and concern by the general public. This little book, subtitled "A First Book of Ecology," explains in simple, direct, and vivid language the ways in which all forms of wildlife are dependent on each other and their natural environments. Soil and water, grass, forest and wildlife are all shown to be inextricably associated in nature, so that one cannot be misused without harmful and long-reaching effects on the others. Man's continued use and enjoyment of these given resources, including favorable agricultural practices, are dependent on these now well-known and simple truths. The four-dozen photographs are arranged in sequence to tell the story pictorially from the making of soil in the beginning to the way man is related to the function within the natural communities.

John H. Storer, farmer conservationist and now president of the Florida Audubon Society has written this book for everyone that we all may work effectively for our individual and collective good. Fortunately, Mr. Storer has succeeded in placing both the language and the price within everyone's reach.—T. L. QUAY.

*Those of the Forest*, Wallace Byron Grange, 314 pp.; illustrated by Olaus J. Murie, \$4.75. The Flambeau Publishing Co., Babcock, Wis. 1953. Through many years of intense field work and careful note-taking, Wallace Grange prepared for this extraordinary chronicle which revolves around two snowshoe hares, Snowshoe and his son, Lepus. As you read, you get the feeling that you, too, are there in the forest, swamp or brush, making the observations. So realistically are these episodes reported in this year-round chronicle, that one has difficulty in recalling whether one read about them or actually witnessed them. And, in the case of this reviewer, who knows Wallace Grange and something about the countryside and animals chronicled, the book proved very dynamic.

Because Grange has tremendous perception and writes intimately of many relationships of the hares to their environment, the book is not easy to review. Grange has dwelled on the wholeness of nature, without once bringing in humankind. This is strictly a story of "those of the forest"—a story that will have most appeal to mature readers, although some of the episodes, in themselves, can be extracted and relished by less mature or younger readers. Undoubtedly, in the future some anthologist will so use portions of this book.

The author has earned an honored place among the great nature writers and his book stands unique. It is an ecological chronicle. One might say that it demonstrates the *harmonies of wild life*, with special reference to the snowshoe hare. All this destines the book to become a classic. In comparing *Those of the Forest* with past examples of "nature writing," this reviewer's opinion is that it surpasses them all because of Grange's tremendous insight into the inter-relationships of living things.

Indeed through a reading of this book, many of us should gain additional perspective on such troublesome points as "balance of nature," long-time plant-community successions, wild populations, cycles, predation, interdependence of plants and animals, influence of weather, fire, soil, water, and geological forces.

Grange was fortunate in obtaining illustrations from that gifted and noted field naturalist, Olaus J. Murie. The only fault was that there were not more of Murie's illustrations included.

Don't expect to be able to sit down and read this book through rapidly. And, once you have gone through it, you will discover that you can pick it up, open to almost any page, and quickly become involved in an episode, satisfactorily complete within itself to the reader.—DOUGLAS WADE.



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

There are 146 counties in the Carolinas. We hear regularly from about 10 of them and rarely from about 15 others. That is rather thin coverage. Is your county represented?

**Loons and Mergansers.**—For the last two weeks (Dec. 20, '53 to Jan. 2, '54) there has been a flock of about fifty Common Loons here on Lake Junaluska (Haywood County, N. C.). The lake has been largely frozen over during that time, and the loons would sit up on the ice for hours at a time. Late in the evening they would *come up on the bank* where I got a splendid view of them. During the same two weeks there have been about 18 Hooded Mergansers here. I saw them in the sunshine yesterday with their white crests displayed. We have had a few Canada Geese and I have identified Mallards, Black Ducks, two or three Shovellers, Scaup, and Baldpate. —SARAH LESLEY, *Lake Junaluska, N. C., Jan. 4, 1954.*

**Rare Wildfowl at Santee.**—On February 5, 1954, I saw two Snow Geese among a flock of 185 Canada Geese in the refuge portion of Lake Moultrie, Berkeley County, S. C. One of the Snows was an adult and the other an immature bird. This is the first time I have observed this species in South Carolina since I came here 3½ years ago.

On January 9, 1954, E. F. Holland, Refuge Manager at Santee examined a male European Widgeon that had been shot and killed that day by Basil Richburg at Lake Marion, Clarendon County, S. C.—ROBERT J. LEMAIRE, *Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, S. C.* (Both of the above species are rare in South Carolina and previous records have been confined to the coast.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**Duck Behavior.**—Mrs. Lyon and I ran out to one of the local ducks ponds near Laurinburg on the afternoon of Feb. 25, 1954, to see what ducks were here and sighted what I first thought was a Bufflehead. We maneuvered to get a better light and found that the bird was a male Hooded Merganser. Close by was a female Canvasback. The Merganser seemed to be sleeping with its head under a wing while the Canvasback was alert. Now and again she would swim up to him and turn him slowly around by pushing with her bill. He did not seem to mind and kept up his siesta. Finally I waked him up by slamming my car door and he pulled his head out and shook himself with apparent alarm. They swam apart and were about 30 feet apart when the Merganser decided to take off. He had a lead of about 30 feet when she arose. In less than a hundred yards she had caught up with him and they

flew together, turning at the far end of the pond and coming back to pass over us and head in the direction of another nearby pond. There were no other waterfowl on the pond and we surmise that these two were just lonely. The Canvasback appeared to be almost twice as large as the Merganser. They made strange companions.—E. R. LYON, *Laurinburg, N. C.*

**Purple Gallinules Continue to Breed at Lake Ellis, Craven County, N. C.**—On June 25, 1953, a pair of Purple Gallinules with five downy young were located at Lake Ellis near the same spot where we found a breeding pair in September of 1951 (*Chat* 15(5):79). Bill Joyner of Rocky Mount had been invited to bring his camera and he got some excellent color film of this second brood. Four days later Matt took additional pictures. Only two of the young were found then. One of these was caught and examined. The disproportionate size of the baby's feet was amazing. The egg-tooth was still in evidence. The films were shown and well received at the CBC Annual Meeting at High Point. —MR. and MRS. MATT L. THOMPSON, *Chapel Hill, N. C.* (See also Robert Holmes' note in the *Chat* 15(3-4):59. Note also that Lake Ellis is correctly listed above in Craven County. Previous references list it in Carteret County.—*Dept. Ed.*).

**Herring Gulls and Gannets Along Hatteras Bank.**—On Jan. 1, 1954, as a preliminary to the CBC Mid-winter Field trip next day, we explored the 40 miles of Hatteras Bank from Oregon Inlet to Cape Hatteras. When first crossing the inlet we were struck by the large numbers of gulls in the vicinity, both on the inner flats and the outer beach. We examined the outer beach frequently on the southward run, and walked well out on the sands of Cape Hatteras proper. The gulls were plentiful all along the beach and out over the ocean for a good half-mile. These were predominantly Herring Gulls, with less than one per cent of Ring-bills and Black-backs. How accurate would an estimate of total numbers be? We believe that the total number of gulls along these 40 miles of ocean beach could be conservatively placed at between 100,000 and 200,000 individuals. What is the wintering gull population of all North Carolina? Or the entire continental east coast?

Gannets were also plentiful, frequently soaring and diving within 100 feet of the shore. Directly east off Cape Hatteras we estimated 3,000 Gannets to be in view at one time over a half-mile stretch. We have never before seen Gannets gather together in large flocks like this. The fishing must have been very good.—T. L. QUAY and PHILIP H. DAVIS, *Raleigh, N. C.*

**Swallow Migration on the North Carolina Coast.**—During the two weeks period from August 9 to 23, 1953, at Long Beach, ten miles due west of the mouth of Cape Fear River, I witnessed a portion of the Fall swallow migration. Weather permitting, the swallows winged their way from dawn to dark, parallel to the coast which runs almost due east and west along this stretch of the Atlantic shore. By sample counts, averaging from less than one per minute to a peak of more than 80 individuals per minute (August 18), it was estimated that approximately 89,000 individuals passed this spot during the two week period. Occasionally rainy periods drove the birds to roost on power wires where sight identification revealed that more than 90 per cent were Barn Swallows with Tree and Rough-winged Swallows in lesser abundance. During one such lull, a single Purple Martin was also seen. In spite of the swoops and dips characteristic of swallow flight, these birds were flying at an average speed westward of from 30 to 35 miles per hour (determined by keeping pace in an automobile).—HAL H. STRICKLAND, *Greensboro, N. C.*

**The Bank Swallow in the Carolinas.**—On December 21, 1926, Dr. Thomas Smyth, then of the University of South Carolina, wrote me that one of his students in ornithology, Mr. T. M. Craig, had recorded the Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) as nesting at Lake Summit and at Tuxedo, both in North Carolina, during the preceding season, and that identification had been

verified by T. F. Musselman of Quincy, Illinois. The nests were about four miles from the South Carolina line, and I did not enter them in my "Birds of Upper South Carolina." After several years in California and a return east in the early 1930's I found such birds in summer near Pioneer Park and the reservoir between Table Rock and Caesar's Head, *but found no nests*. Thinking the Craig and Musselman records had probably been published, I devoted but a single sentence to the record of my find in some notes in the *Auk*, 51:537. Finding, since the advent of the 1950's, that the earlier record had evidently not been published, I took the matter up with Dr. Smyth, and he assured me I was welcome to publish his communication. Through the kindness of the University Alumni Association I found Mr. Craig, who stated the Bank Swallows had been found near Lake Summit, 1926-'28. An additional message from Dr. Musselman, a noted authority on the subject, commends Mr. Craig's field work and verifies "Bank Swallows nesting near Caesar's Head" and adds, "Certainly you are welcome to publish the record." The communication of all three of the gentlemen concerned is carefully preserved in my files. Their observations and notes precede mine by several years.

Excavations attending dam-building in the general vicinity apparently opened banks in sand and alluvial soil and established new and local niches for the species. As such banks weather off to mere slopes the birds could be expected to yield the territory. Even more than the Rough-wing the Bank Swallow seems dependent on undercutting and caving of banks for nesting sites, for the former makes use of abandoned and worn brick-wallings when niched and scarred by time.—A. L. PICKENS, *Queens College, Charlotte, N. C.*

**Mockingbird Behavior.**—Today, January 8, 1954, as I started to turn into my drive at noon I saw two birds tangled in a fight on the pavement in front of my home. I stopped and one of them, a Mockingbird, flew up into "its" Dogwood in the front yard. On the pavement was a Hermit Thrush pretty well beaten and ruffled up. It wasn't able to fly over five feet but it managed to elude me on several attempts as I reached down after it. Finally capturing it, I found that it apparently was uninjured except for the lower bill, which was broken. There was some blood around the mouth.

I took the thrush into the back yard and placed it in the sun. When first released it simply squatted quietly, making no effort to move. I left it and returned about 10 minutes later. It flew about 10 feet away and I did not try to recapture it. After lunch I started back to see how the bird was getting on and saw that the mocker had found it again. This time he finished the job by killing the thrush. I attempted to get some movies of the action but most of it was in shadows. The distance from the first affair on the pavement to the kill is about 175 feet—still within the mocker's territory.

I do not contend that the mocker first injured the thrush. It may have been hit by a car or hurt in some other way. The mocker certainly finished it, confining its pecking, like a Brown Thrasher breaking open a beetle, to the area around the mouth. I expected to find upon examination that the victim's eyes had been pecked out. This was not the case. Chickens, you know, will peck at any bloody spot on another chicken. With tropical fish it is usually the eyes that are first attacked when an individual becomes weak. So I thought perhaps the eyes would appeal to the mocker. On two occasions I saw the mocker pull out strings of what I presume was tissue from the thrush's mouth. Other parts of its body had not been attacked. I left the dead bird on the open ground in plain view, but on checking tonight I found that it hadn't been disturbed again. Instead, and despite the cool weather, a host of ants had gathered.—J. W. E. JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.*

**Goldfinches Nesting at Rocky Mount, N. C.**—In the Carolinas, the fall line has been found to mark approximately the eastern limit of the breeding of Goldfinches. More often their nests are found even nearer the mountains. Letters from Charlie Benbow of Rocky Mount, describing the raising of three young in his yard last summer are particularly interesting. The Benbows had been watching a pair of Goldfinches at their feeders for several

weeks when in Mid-August they turned up with three young. The "plumage of the young was about the same as that of the female except that it was somewhat darker." Both parents fed the young and taught them to use the bird bath. The call of the young was of three or four syllables.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak Winters at Troy, N. C.**—A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak came to my feeders on the outskirts of Troy on November 13, 1953. I have watched it almost daily and it is still here (March 30, 1954). It has not yet attained full mature plumage.

For the most part it gets along well with other birds. It eats from all feeders where there are sunflower seeds (4 feeders on 3 sides of the house), and it eats chick scratch and regular scratch from the ground. It feeds with Towhees, Cardinals, Chipping, Field, White-throat, Fox, Song Sparrows and Juncos. Sometimes when Cardinals get very near the Grosbeak it will flutter its wings and frighten them away. It does the same to Nuthatches and Downy Woodpeckers. When Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Thrashers or Robins come to feed, the Grosbeak leaves. As far as I have observed it does not eat crumbs, peanut butter or chopped nuts. There was a transient male Rose-breasted Grosbeak here last year in April and I suppose this female will leave about that time.—FRANCES M. COVINGTON, *Troy, N. C.*

**More Dickcissels.**—Mrs. Cecil Appleberry, in her splendid account of the past winter season at Wilmington, N. C., included the report of a male Dickcissel observed by Mrs. Polly Mebane in Mrs. Mebane's yard from January 15 through 20th, 1954.

Near Raleigh, N. C., Wilella (Mrs. Robert L.) Overing watched a male Dickcissel at their feeder for about 30 minutes on April 5, 1954. The bird was with White-throats and House Sparrows. The feeder is located only 15 feet from a window. The Overings have lived and traveled in the West and the Dickcissel is not a stranger to them.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Sparrow Trapped by Algae, or Pond Scum?**—On the afternoon of March 13, 1954, while trying to open the fishing season in a small pond nearby, the writer observed a small sparrow-like bird floating on the water near shore. The bird was only about a foot from shore in water three to four inches deep, and its tail was fully spread, the wings being partially so. It was picked up and examined. The specimen proved to be a Field Sparrow showing no evidence of injury, and it appeared in good condition as the weather had been rather cool for the past several days. On closer examination both of its feet were covered with balls of what appeared to be blue-green algae, or pond scum, to the size of your little finger tip. After considering the position in the water suggesting a struggle and the masses of algae, it led me to think rather strongly that the bird might have settled on the shallow pond edge by some mistake, and in attempting to rise it had become entangled in the mass of algae and drowned.—FRANK MEACHAM, *State Museum, Raleigh, N. C.*

**Rare Sparrows in the North Carolina Coastal Plain.**—On February 19, 1954, I collected an adult female Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) in an overgrown sandy field near the Port Terminal at Greenville, N. C. The bird was found in a flock of Song Sparrows, White-throated Sparrows, and Juncos, but when it flew up and lit in a small bush the broad band across the breast distinguished it immediately from these other birds. Lincoln's Sparrow has previously been reported from but one North Carolina coastal plain locality. On April 14, 1939 an adult female was collected seven miles west of South Mills at the edge of Dismal Swamp.<sup>1</sup> Also on February 19, 1954, I collected an adult male Fox Sparrow (*Passercella i. iliaca*) in an open hardwood swamp in the same area at Greenville. The Fox Sparrow is rare here and only one other has been seen recently. It was found near Simpson, five miles east of Greenville, on October 23, 1953. The skins of these birds have been deposited in the collection of East Carolina College.

The White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), is another species I have found for which there is only one prior coastal plain record. This is

a report of two birds seen by E. L. Green at Cape Hatteras on March 25, 1936.<sup>2</sup> On January 3, 1954, I found one of these sparrows feeding with a flock of White-throated Sparrows in the shrubbery of a flower garden at Wilmington. It was seen again on Jan. 4, by Mary Baker, but was not seen after that. At Greenville, one was seen perched in a small bush at the Port Terminal on February 4, 1954. It was watched in full sunlight for nearly five minutes by Dr. T. H. Eaton, Don McAllister and myself. A few minutes later we also saw a Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) but we did not have the opportunity to collect it. There is only one record of the Grasshopper Sparrow having been collected during the winter in North Carolina, and that occurred on December 29, 1931, in Buncombe County.<sup>3</sup> There is a sight record in the Wilmington 1949 Christmas Count.<sup>4</sup>

#### NOTES:

1. Wetmore, Alexander. Notes on the Birds of North Carolina. *Proceedings of the U. S. National Museum*, Vol. XC, pp. 483-530. 1941.

2. Pearson, Brimley and Brimley. *Birds of North Carolina*. N. C. Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C. 1942. p. 372.

3. Ibid. p. 360. Listed as *A. s. australis*, but currently referred to *A. s. pratensis*.

4. Audubon Field Notes. *50th Christmas Bird Count*, National Audubon Society, Vol. 4, No. 2, 1950. p. 98.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG, East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.

**The Ceilometer Hazard.** — You are doubtless aware that for the past few years there have been scattered reports of the attraction of migratory birds to Weather Bureau ceilometers at the airports. These straight-up searchlights pose a much smaller threat to birds than do the high, horizontally-beamed lights. However, migrating birds occasionally become confused and swarm around these great 35,000,000 candle-power beams. I have noted them in flocks ranging from a few to many hundreds around our ceilometer at the Greensboro-High Point Airport, where I have worked for the Weather Bureau for some years. September 15, 1948 is the earliest date I have recorded them.

At that time the clouds were low, and it was rather foggy. A flock of small birds came right down around the light, a rather rare occurrence here, I later learned. More often they range from about 200 feet up to 2500 to 3000 feet, if the ceiling is that high. That night the birds stayed until daylight, and I went out three times but was unable to find a dead or injured bird, or to tell what species were present.

Several times that fall (1948), and during succeeding migrations, I saw small or large flocks of birds around the light. Occasionally they came in the spring, but mostly from about Aug. 15 to Oct. 1. Since I had found no birds on the ground the first time, I made no further investigation, nor any special note of later occurrences, except to notice that almost all of the "bird nights" were cloudy, usually with a ceiling of 3000 feet, or less, often with some fog. Occasionally a few birds would circle the light briefly on a clear, or "high cloud" night, then apparently become re-oriented and disappear.

In the spring of 1952, John McLeod, Jr., of Greensboro questioned me about my experiences around the ceilometer, and addressed a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Service on the subject. The reply from Frederick C. Lincoln, dated May 7, 1952 is interesting:

"Because of our general ignorance of the reasons for attraction and destruction of birds at ceilometers, all bits of information bearing on the subject are most welcome. In the cases reported by you it is particularly interesting to note that the phenomenon was observed only on cloudy nights. The cases in Tennessee, where destruction of birds has been large, have been, on the contrary, on clear nights."

I observed no different developments after that until Sept. 7, 1953, when an unusually large flock of birds came around our ceilometer. This time the ceiling was higher than usual, over 5,000 feet, though it had been lower before most of the birds appeared, and there was no fog. At sunrise I went out to the light and found the following birds on the ground: 4 Red-eyed Vireos, 3 Ovenbirds, 1 Black and White Warbler, all alive. With them were, 10 Red-eyed Vireos, 3 Ovenbirds, 2 Black and White Warblers, and a female, or immature, Summer Tanager. All of the latter list were dead.

The living birds were apparently unhurt, only suffering from exhaustion and confusion. One of the vireos got up and flew when I trailed it. I caught another, and it fought and bit vigorously, then fluttered back to the ground. Perhaps all of the living birds were able to fly after resting. The living and dead birds were scattered from 5 to 300 feet from the light.

Since I had not been to the office the previous night I am not certain that some of the birds I found were not killed then. The weather had been much worse then, with low ceiling and fog. Later in the fall several more flocks of birds came to the ceilometer, but I found no more injured or dead ones.

The Weather Bureau has taken official notice of the attraction of birds to ceilometers. In the spring of 1953 a letter came out to the effect that ceilometers should be turned off when birds are seen around them. IF the lack of light will not endanger air traffic by necessitating uncertain ceiling reports.

Turning off the light often leads to a blown bulb when it is turned on again, requiring an extra trip or two to the light, over 300 yards away, to get the complicated mechanism working properly. So the problem is not easily solved. —THOMAS E. STREET, *Greensboro, N. C.* (There are a number of ceilometers at airports in the Carolinas and we need studies made at each of them. *Dept. Ed.*)

#### Briefs for the Files.

**Brown Pelican**, 300 or more on sandbar just south of Wrightsville Beach, N. C., Jan. 18, 1954, Sam and Dorothy Baker. **Whistling Swan**, 1 at Henderson, N. C., Dec. 2, 1953, Mrs. A. W. Bachman. **Blue Goose**, 1 immature at Forest Lake, Fayetteville, N. C., arrived Nov. 27, 1952, remained 3 weeks, associated with Mallards and Baldpates, Henry Rankin, Jr. **Spotted Sandpiper**, 1 Rocky Mount, N. C., Oct. 11, 1953, J. W. E. Joyner. **Purple Sandpiper**, 4 at Wilmington, N. C., Jan. 19, 1954, Mebane, Appleberry, Baker. **Forester's Tern**, 15 in view at one time from causeway at Lake Mattamuskeet, N. C., Nov. 27, 1953, T. L. Quay. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, 1 at Troy, N. C., Mar. 11, 1954, Frances M. Covington. **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, 1 at Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 20, 1953, first since 1946, Joyner. **Yellow-throated Vireo**, 1 at Wilmington, N. C., Feb. 28, 1954, Comeau; another at McClellanville, S. C., Dec. 23, 1953, J. B. Shuler, Jr. **Myrtle Warbler**, upward to 1,000 following a tractor at Eastover, S. C., Feb. 18, 1954, first thought to be Pipits which were present in nearby fields, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Yellow-breast Chat**, 1, Dec. 5, 1953, (Mebane), 2, Jan. 19, 1954, (Baker, Mebane, Mrs. Appleberry), at Wilmington; 1 at McClellanville, S. C., Mar. 5, 1953, J. B. Shuler, Jr. **Baltimore Oriole**, 1 male, New Bern, N. C., Dec. 20 through 31, 1953, Fred Conderman; 1 male, 2 females, Elm City, N. C., Jan. 12, still present Mar. 28, 1954, Mrs. T. B. Winstead; 1 female, Jan. 2 through Feb. 5, 1954, Wilmington, Mrs. Appleberry; 1 female, Jan. 13, through Mar. 19, 1954, Wilmington, Mrs. Mebane. Female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at Columbia, S. C., still coming to Miss Ebba Van's feeders. First date Feb. 12. Accidental in winter in middle of S. C., Kay Sisson. **Painted Bunting**, 6, Dec. 5, 1953, near Airlie Gardens entrance, Wilmington, Edwin Toomer. **Henslow's Sparrow**, 1, North Wilkesboro, N. C., Nov. 28, 1953, Wendell P. Smith. **White-crowned Sparrow**, 1 imm. Mar. 25, 1954, possibly was present most of winter, Henderson, N. C., Mrs. A. W. Bachman. **Fox Sparrow**, 1 remained at feeder in Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 17 through Mar. 5, two were present Mar. 2, Mrs. Geo. W. Potter.

---

We announce the election of Dr. Christine Wilton and Leon Ballance to the Executive Committee as Members-at-large. Dr. Wilton is Professor of Biology at East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C. and Leon Ballance is a graduate of N. C. State College in Agronomy, and is a farmer at Lake Landing near Mattamuskeet, N. C.

Announcement is also made at this time of replacing the editorial board by associate editors. Two new associates are appointed for 1954-55: Ernest Cutts, Managing Editor of the *Charleston Evening Post*, and James R. Mattocks, Attorney of High Point, N. C.—Ed.





Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

### OFFICERS FOR 1954-1955

*President:* Miss May Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Vice-Presidents:* Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.; Fred May, Lenoir, N. C.; Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.

*Secretary:* Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.

*Treasurer:* Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editors and the following four elected Members-at-large: Rhett Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. Christine Wilton, Greenville, N. C. and Leon Ballance, Lake Landing, N. C.



# THE CHAT

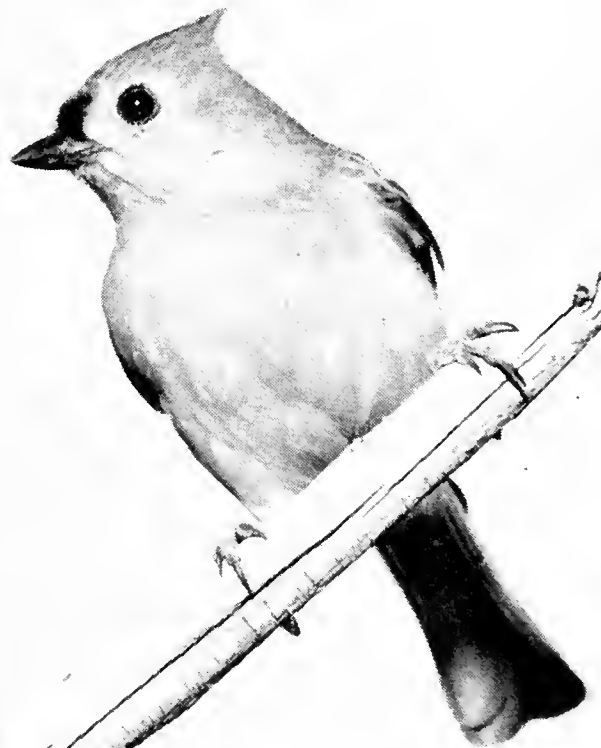
*Bulletin of*



Volume 18

SEPTEMBER, 1954

Number 3



Published by The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Devoted to the publication of scientific and popular information on the birds and other wildlife of the Carolinas.

*Editor:* Kay Curtis Sisson, 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C.

*Co-editor:* Annie Rivers Faver, Eastover, S. C.

*Associate Editors:* B. R. Chamberlain, Ernest Cutts, Harry Davis, Jack Dermid, James Mattocks, T. L. Quay, Thomas W. Simpson, Douglas Wade.

*Distribution Office:* N. C. State Museum, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C.

*The Chat* is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December as the official bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Entered as second-class matter on March 14, 1952, at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price to non-members: \$1.00 per volume. Single copies: 30 cents. Correspondence about changes of address and back numbers should be sent to Mr. Harry Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. *Please notify the Distribution Office immediately of change of address.* Subscriptions should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., and sent to the Treasurer.

## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	57
Historical Developments of Sight Recognition. <i>Ludlow Griscom</i> .....	58
Carolina Bird Names. <i>W. L. McAttee</i> .....	62
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , editor .....	70
Editorial .....	72
Review: <i>Land Birds of America</i> , by Robert Cushman Murphy & Dean Amadon—Reviewer, <i>T. L. Quay</i> .....	72
<i>Songbirds of America</i> , by Dr. A. A. Allen & Dr. P. P. Kellogg—Reviewer, <i>K. C. Sisson</i> .....	72
Breeding Habits of the Catbird. <i>Mrs. G. E. Charles</i> .....	73
Study Your Bird. <i>Alice Carver Cramer (The Saturday Review)</i> .....	78
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , editor .....	79
Common Loon at Eastover, S. C. <i>Mrs. W. H. Faver</i> .....	79
Banding Returns. Editor .....	79
Late Widgeon. <i>Yates M. Barber, Jr. &amp; Don Baker</i> .....	79
A Northern Phalarope at Rocky Mount, N. C. Editor .....	80
Behavior: Doves, Jays, Crows. <i>J. W. E. Joyner</i> .....	80
Some Birds of Balsam Gap. <i>J. J. Murray</i> .....	80
Unusual Nest Site. <i>J. Weston Clinard</i> .....	81
Cedar Waxwings Nesting. <i>J. W. E. Joyner</i> .....	81
Black-throated Green Warbler Nesting. <i>Clifford M. Comeau; John Trott</i> .....	81
Anting. <i>W. L. McAttee</i> .....	82
A Winter Visitor at Wilmington, N. C. <i>Mrs. W. C. Mebane</i> .....	83
More Snow Buntings in North Carolina. Editor .....	84
Spring Count—1954. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> .....	Inside Back Cover

**Cover Photograph.**—Tufted Titmouse, common bird of the Carolinas and a regular visitor to feeding stations. Photographed by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

What a wonderful year this has been for me, with interesting and profitable field trips, new friends, new birds, new territory and new inspiration. Every new species for my life list gives me a thrill, and every new friend increases my interest in people, and I always enjoy new places. I did not get to Pea Island in January to see the Snow Geese, but had the privilege of seeing the movies made by Gordon Brown at the Edisto Island meeting. High Point gave us a most cordial welcome and excellent entertainment at our well attended annual meeting in March, with interesting programs. The Lybrands at Edisto went out of their way to make our stay there comfortable, pleasurable and profitable. One of the high lights for the Greenville Bird Club is their annual trip to Clemson where we are joined by the Van Eseltines, former members, and formerly of Clemson, now of the University of Georgia. In early May, Bea Potter joined me for a trip to Augusta, Ga., to attend the spring meeting of GOS. There we made more new friends, added new birds, among them being Swainson's Warbler on nest about waist high on the bank of a river. Many other nesting warblers were seen in the swampy areas. It was really a field day for warblers. Overhead we saw the Mississippi Kite, not common in that area. Back home we searched for a Henslow Sparrow's nest in a field of clover.

All of the above leads me to say that there is nothing quite like getting out in the woods, fields and along marshes to watch birds in migration, in their natural habitat, choosing their mates, building their nests, feeding their young, teaching them to fly, and particularly observing the defense of territories. I can recommend this as a most interesting hobby or study that will afford relaxation, easing of tensions, pleasure, satisfaction and contentment. Try it.

I am very much interested in initiating regions or zones with active leaders, who will keep in touch with organized bird clubs, assist in organizing new clubs, and encourage membership all along the line. Along with this, news of their activities should go to the newsletter editor for publication for the benefit of the entire membership. Won't some CBC'ers volunteer for leaders?

An endowment fund has been discussed, and left in the hands of the executive committee temporarily. We need an active group pushing this matter. A small nest egg is already in the fund and more will be coming in. I am working on this committee, and will have one lined up soon. I believe all affiliated clubs will be interested in this expansion and where possible, I hope will make donations. It would be highly gratifying if we could use this for memorial contributions, with a card acknowledging the donation in memory of the person. By building up this fund, we can expand Club work.

I have just received an enthusiastic report from our treasurer, which looks good with all bills paid. With such willing and enthusiastic officers, editors, advisors, members-at-large, and committees, there is no reason why the Carolina Bird Club cannot go places. More committees are to be named, but some already at work include Fred May, publicity; Bea Potter, membership; Mrs. T. J. Buxton, sanctuary; Gordon Brown and John Trott, education; Robert Overing, programs; George Smith, field trip leader; Doris Simpson, newsletter editor, with Bob Wolff on reserve. It is a happy privilege to be leader of this wonderful group of persons, and with our excellent setup, we should grow steadily in interest and achievement, and I am sure we will do so.

—MAY W. PUETT

# HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS OF SIGHT RECOGNITION

LUDLOW GRISCOM

*Period I:* First of all there was no such thing as a sight record. Ornithology really got going in the late sixties and seventies of the last century and was followed by a period of unrestricted collecting and shooting. There were also sportsmen collectors who were only interested in getting ducks and the various game birds, which in those times included practically all water birds, hawks, and owls. The literature is stuffed with innumerable errors based on specimens erroneously identified: The Blue Geese turned out to be immature Lesser Snows, the Golden Eagles were Bald Eagles, the rare Philadelphia Vireos were Tennessee Warblers, the American Three-toed Woodpeckers were Hairy Woodpeckers with yellow crown-spot, and Bohemian Waxwings were nothing but Cedars with some white feathers in the wings! For identification all small birds were automatically shot, and no reasonable man should have any quarrel with the people trained in this school for their attitude and their point of view.

*Period II:* The decline of general collecting and the beginning of the era of protection and conservation.

Laws of steadily increasing severity exterminated the lucrative profession of taxidermy. Spring shooting of game birds was abolished and an increasing series of restrictive laws greatly reduced the category of game birds in many different directions. Some of this was regarded as quite disastrous by the older ornithologists, and Witmer Stone records an amusing story of a conversation he had with Daniel Giraud Elliot, who in his late eighties mourned the decline of ornithology! Stone, as editor of the *Auk* and active with the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club at Philadelphia, was well aware that never previously in the history of the world had there been such a boom as was then taking place in ornithology! And, of course, what Elliot had in mind was the decline of general collecting, as that was the only way known to him by which younger people could acquire competent knowledge and experience.

*Period III:* The first appearance of sight records from 1900 on.

As a young man interested in local faunistics, I was told by both Dwight and Chapman to study Brewster's *Birds of the Cambridge Region* as an example of how a local fauna should be done. I did so. Brewster's criterion now seems to us exceedingly severe and almost unreasonable. Sight records of rare birds relatively easy to identify were accepted, provided that the maker was known to be an experienced observer and provided that he had previous acquaintance in life with such rare bird. Mr. Brewster did not hesitate to give sight records of rare birds of his own, but he was always most careful to state that he was thoroughly familiar with this species in life in other parts of the United States where he also had had field experience. With the passage of time everybody accepted his statements, as everybody knew that he had indeed had the field experience he claimed. It was this that started me off on my own chase of a large life list from 1907 on—for which I have been teased all my life—as in reporting rare birds I, too, wished to be able to say that I knew this bird well from field experience in other sections of the country.

Mr. Brewster has published a charming letter written to him on January 20, 1905, about a sight record of a Glaucous Gull, then so rare a bird in Massachusetts that every case was a matter of record. The youthful author, in reciting his observation, closed with the following remark: "While I do not feel this observation was conclusive, . . . I still believe the bird to be a Glaucous Gull." Brewster writes: "While this observation was certainly *not* conclusive, . . ." The youthful author of the letter was Glover M. Allen, soon to attain a national reputation as an ornithologist!

The next point I wish to make is that the reporting of an observation required some similar phrase of humility, which was exacted from all young men reporting sight records of birds in my youth. I asked myself the rhetorical question, What was the matter with this observation, and why was it certainly not conclusive? The answer is that there was no specimen, no good glasses were used, because none existed, and there was no comparison with other species, such as the Herring or the Black-backed Gull. While this lack of favorable circumstances of observation was certainly not the observer's fault, you just had to wait until this happened to you!

In December, 1911, I persuaded the late Waldron DeWitt Miller to visit Gardiner's Island, Long Island, with me in search of rare ducks and other sea birds. I wish here to pay tribute of my indebtedness to Miller for many valuable experience pointers in the field and to state how much I feel I owe him. But as we were going down in the train to Greenport, I chattered happily about what birds we might expect to see, and I was so rash as to mention that we ought to find the Red-throated, as well as the Common Loon. Miller immediately interrupted me and said in a displeased tone of voice, "Everybody knows that these species are inseparable in life." I find from my journal that we saw one Red-throated Loon on December 1, five on the 2nd, and two on the 3rd, and one specimen in excellent condition was found dead on the beach and collected. Mr. Miller's notes read, "One specimen collected, others believed seen."

I may now mention that on this trip we found a Black Guillemot on one of the ponds and had a most excellent observation, and it was Miller who first identified this bird and who proved that it could not be a White-winged Scoter. This bird has never been mentioned for forty-two years, and I now wish to give the reasons, as proof of the type of training that I had to undergo in my youth and the rigid discipline that was exacted from a young man starting in ornithology. The Guillemot was at that time the rarest of winter stragglers to Long Island, and December 3 appeared too early a date. That is *Item 1*. *Item 2*: Neither of us had ever seen the Guillemot alive before. *Item 3*: The Guillemot was in full *summer* plumage instead of *winter* plumage. (It was forty years later that a published revision of the Guillemots showed delayed moult in this species to be very common.) Those are the reasons why Miller and I most carefully suppressed this Guillemot record for so long a period of time. And the point is also psychological; when people were known to have suppressed what they were convinced they actually saw, they were believed when they finally did publish a sight record.

I have recently heard from a friend, not a collector, that he once sent an article to the *Auk* containing a list of the birds from some mountain

locality in Pennsylvania. He made the frightful mistake of reporting the Louisiana Water-thrush as a common summer resident (which it undoubtedly was) and the Northern Water-thrush as a common spring and fall transient (which it also was), and the editor of the *Auk* refused the article on the ground that "everybody knows that the two species of water-thrushes are inseparable in life." Similarly, it was not believed that anybody studying the warbler migrations in spring could walk through the woods identifying the various species in the treetops, including all the particularly rare transients. This was proved by the late Louis B. Bishop, of Connecticut, who was good enough to look into it and who went out with younger members of the New Haven Bird Club. Whenever they said, "There is a male Blackburnian Warbler in the treetop," Bishop promptly shot it, and, to his great surprise, it turned out to be a Blackburnian Warbler! Both Brewster in the Nuttall Club and Dwight in the Linnaean Society would not hesitate to put younger men through the third degree about the sight records that they reported at the meetings. If a young man was frightened and tongue-tied and was unable to give his reasons for his identification, he was indeed seriously out of luck, but if, on the other hand, he was able to speak up and give the true facts, they were both fair and courteous gentlemen, and would say in public that the characters given were indeed very well and correctly described.

By way of summary, as I look back on my own life I regard this as a magnificent piece of training, even if at times it was unpleasant and disagreeable. Younger people must remember that in dealing with techniques previously unheard of they had to be established and validated. This inevitably took time, and it was even harder on the older ornithologists of the collecting period, who couldn't possibly acquire this technique themselves. It is much harder, in terms of common humanity, to expect an older and more experienced man to admit that a younger and less experienced man can do something that he can't do.

The next period might be regarded as the period of success. Thanks to automobiles, improved field glasses, spotting scopes, the matchless Peterson *Guides*, and colored plates of every species of North American birds readily available to everyone, we have seen what might be called the victory for the struggle of sight records. I should like to call your attention to the splendid summary by Witmer Stone in *Birds of Old Cape May*. He no longer worries about whether or not the two water-thrushes are separable in life, and he doesn't even bother to cite whether or not specimens of any of these commoner birds exist in the collections of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences. In other words, the struggle for sight records took about twenty-five years.

We pass now automatically to what I wish to call present-day problems. We are living in an *era of superficiality*. Excellent as Peterson's *Guides* in fact are, they are guides and not encyclopedias to our knowledge of North American birds. My point is, that there are many real facts about North American birds which the users of Peterson's *Guides* and other popular manuals never acquire, and it must be admitted by the fair-minded that in the old collecting days these facts were acquired by students from the constant handling of specimens. I wish to give an illustration of what I mean by "superficiality." I have in mind the story

of a young student who spent his summer college vacation motoring out to the prairies of northern North Dakota, where he was taken by a refuge manager to an island where some forty thousand Franklin's Gulls were nesting. It cannot, therefore, be doubted that he saw Franklin's Gulls and that he added the species to his life list perfectly legitimately. Six weeks later he joined my party down at Monomoy. There on the beach within shotgun range, and standing between two Laughing Gulls, was a perfect adult Franklin's Gull, which he was unable to recognize, spot, or identify. My point is, that he really knew nothing about the Franklin's Gull and could not have given its various characters of identification properly from memory.

Just as Witmer Stone said in the work already cited, we now have hordes of incompetent and inexperienced observers, whose activities in birding consist primarily in an increasingly frantic effort to secure the credence of so-called higher authorities for rarities which they say they see. We are constantly getting a flood of these incompetent sight records in the literature, and the country is now so full of one type or another of bird bulletins that it is impossible for the private individual to secure a complete collection, nor is it possible for them to be reviewed in the standard ornithological magazines. This has been followed by what might be termed a decline of censorship and healthy skepticism. Actually, it is impossible for Brewster's criterion to be followed out in the present day and age. I have tried it myself in Massachusetts and it cannot be done. It is impossible to know everybody who is interested in birds, to arrange to go out in the field with everybody and size up their competence and experience, nor is it any longer possible to state categorically, as Brewster was able to do, that such a person was previously unfamiliar with the species in life. You cannot keep track of everybody's life list any more, nor can you keep a list of all the people who have window feeding stations for birds, where something rare or unusual might turn up at any moment.

I do not profess to know what the future solution will be, as it cannot conceivably be worked out in my own lifetime, but I wish to conclude with an earnest plea for my favorite science. I don't wish it to fall into disrepute because the so-called battle of sight records has been won. Whether we like it or not, popular bird study has come to stay. People will chase rarities with their field glasses just as they did with their guns in earlier times. It is impossible and unreasonable to expect that everyone will become a convert to the scientific methods of ornithology, or that they will all secure collecting permits in the interest of science. Some means must be found to prevent local faunistics from being by-passed as amateurish, unscientific, and unworthy of serious attention and study. There is a desperate need for severe, careful, and competent screening and censoring.

*Received March 24, 1953.*

---

This paper is an abbreviated version of a talk given on March 10, 1953, at the Annual Meeting of the Linnaean Society in celebration of its 75th Anniversary. It was prepared for publication with the kind assistance of Mrs. Ruth P. Emery.

Reprinted from PROCEEDINGS OF THE LINNAEAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK 1951-1953, Nos. 63-65, March, 1954.

Reprinted in *The Chat* by kind permission of Ludlow Griscom and Mr. Eugene Eisenmann, President of the LINNAEAN SOCIETY.

# CAROLINA BIRD NAMES

W. L. MCATEE

The names in this series of notes are extracted from the carbon copy of a manuscript on *American Bird Names: Their Histories and Meanings*, by the writer, which is now in the vault of the University of Chicago Press. Its publication is unlikely and, if not published, it will be deposited in the General Library of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Folk names are here given of species known from the Carolinas. "N", in parentheses following a name, signifies that it is known from North Carolina, and "S", similarly, from South Carolina. Names included because they are of general distribution have no annotation. Definite localities for most of the names are available in the card catalogue of material upon which the manuscript was based, which may be consulted in the Louis Agassiz Fuertes Library, Department of Conservation, Cornell University. Compilation for that collection, extending over forty years, and including names from publications of all times and all languages, as well as from unpublished sources, ended with the year 1947.

**COMMON LOON.** **Bad-luck bird(N).** Thought to be of ill omen. **Hell-diver.** In reference to the bird's uncanny diving ability. **Loon.** Said to be derived from loom=Scand. *lom*, meaning lame; the bird is very awkward on foot; at the same time "loon" may be a sonic term as a common call of the bird sounds like "ah-loo". **Walloon, warloon(N).** Probably from a common cry; see preceding remark.

**RED-THROATED LOON.** **Eel-tricker(N).** Presumably as an adept at catching eels.

**RED-NECKED GREBE.** **Sou-westerly loon(N).** From association with storms from that quarter; "loon", though a misnomer, recognizes that this species is larger than other eastern grebes.

**HORNED GREBE.** **Didipper(N).** A contraction of divedipper, the latter term, itself meaning diver. **Diver duck(S).** Any small waterbird may be called a duck; this one is a notable diver. **Hell-diver.** In reference to its uncanny diving ability. **Water-witch.** See preceding note. **White coot(N).** The bird shows a good deal of white and from a popular point of view, the webbed feet ally it to the true coot or blue peter.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE.** **Coot(N).** A general appellation for medium-sized water birds. **Dabchick.** A bird that dabs or dives; of old usage in Great Britain, recorded as early as 1667, Merrett. **Didapper.** A shortening of dive-dapper; the latter part of which term means one that daps or dives. Recorded in Great Britain as early as 1565-1567, *Oxford English Dictionary*. **Dipper.** One that dips or dives. **Dive-dapper(N).** A tautologic term meaning literally the dapper, i.e. dipper or diver that dives. Of old record in Great Britain: Shakespeare, 1592. **Dive-dipper(N).** Meaning the same as for the preceding. **Diver(S).** **Diver duck(S).** Any small water bird may be called a duck; this one is an exceptional diver. **Duck diver(S).** See preceding note. **Ghost-duck(S).** As to "duck", see second preceding note. The term "ghost" refers to the birds "supernatural" capacity for disappearing beneath the water. **Hell-diver.** In reference to the bird's uncanny diving ability. **Sinkin' Peter(N).** A number of marsh and water birds are called "Peter"; the original meaning refers to apparent walking on the water, as in the petrels and the splattering coot. "Sinking" alludes to the remarkable capacity of the present species for submerging beneath the water. **Water-witch.** The latter part of this name refers to the birds' uncanny diving ability. **Witch-diver(S).** See preceding note.

**WILSON'S PETREL.** **Mother Carey's chicken(N).** "Chicken", a bird. For the remainder of the name, a variety of derivations have been suggested; one having dictionary sanction is that the term is an Anglicization of the Latin, **Mater Cara**(esteemed Mother), applied to the Virgin Mary as



patroness of sailors. As these birds are regarded as portents of trouble, the connection does not seem too clear. Another explanation is: "Mother Carew was an old witch . . . good at raising the wind . . . The sailors will not shoot (the petrels) on any account; they pay them great respect, that their mother's wrath may not be roused."

**BROWN PELICAN. Penguin(N).** This name, originally indicating the Great Auk, has been applied, since the extinction of that fowl, to a variety of large sea birds.

**GANNET.** In general use; the term has several forms in Teutonic languages, all meaning "gander."

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. Bogue Sound lawyer(N).** See note on Core Sound lawyer. **Carmal(N).** Corruption of cormorant. **Colored goose.** Polite term used by those who do not care to say "nigger goose," which see. **Core Sound lawyer.** The collector of this name was informed that these birds "like Core Sound lawyers were abundant and held their heads high." **Cormal, Cormel, Cormon, Coromel.** Corruptions of cormorant. **Nigger goose.** In allusion to the black color and to the goose-like appearance, especially when in flight in the V-formation so characteristic of the Canada Goose. **Water turkey.** Probably originally from confusion with the Anhinga; however, it is a water bird of bodily shape somewhat like that of the turkey.

**ANHINGA. Cormorant(S).** By transfer; the bird is very cormorant-like. **Gannet(S).** Probably through confusion with the more frequent freshwater bearer of this name, the Wood Ibis. **Snake bird.** When swimming with all but the long, curved neck and the head submerged, there is considerable suggestion of a snake in its appearance. **Swamp darter(S).** Diver of the swamp, a good name. **Water turkey.** Alfred Newton (1896) suggests that this name is accounted for by the bird's spreading its banded tail; general shape also may have been a factor.

**GREAT BLUE HERON. Big blue crane(S).** Herons are often mis-called cranes. **Blue crane.** See preceding note. **Blue skagen(N).** See note on scoggin. **Blue yaron, Blue yeron(N).** Dialectic forms of heron. **Crane.** Herons are often mis-called cranes. **Cranky(N).** Apparently from its scolding cries, when flushed. **Fisherman(N).** **Forty gallons, Forty gallons of soup.** In allusion to the alleged rank taste of its flesh. "One old fisherman will make forty gallons of soup"; in reality the breast, at least, of this bird is quite edible. **Gannet(S).** Apparently transferred from the Wood Ibis; and that bird may have acquired the name from the similarity of its color pattern (mostly white with black wing tips) to that of the sea gannet. **Gray heron(N).** **Gray scoggin(N).** See note on scoggin. **Horse gannet, Horse gannick (S).** See note on gannet of which gannick is a corruption. **Johnny Woggins(N).** A familiar or "pet" name. **Kingfisher(N).** As the largest fishing bird. **Long blue crane(S).** The bird is tall and like other herons is commonly mis-called crane. **Long Tom(N).** A familiar name, including allusion to the unusual height of the bird. **Old cranky(N).** "Old" a familiar term; see note on "cranky." **Old Joe(S).** **Poor Joe (N., S.); Po' Jo (S.).** These names are reputed to be variants of "Poor Job," in allusion to the birds' scrawniness, from which ill-fortune is assumed. On the other hand "pojo" is Gullah for heron, and has identical sound and meaning in the language of the Vai tribe of Liberia and Sierra Leone, Africa. Lorenzo D. Turner. **Old long Johnny Gongga(N).** Familiar name for this tall bird. **Pond gannet, Pond gannick(S).** See note on gannet. **Sambo(S).** A familiar or "pet" name. **Scawgin, Scoggin, Scoggins(N).** The definition of scoggin as "a butt for ridicule" seems to refer to John Scoggin, court fool to Edward VI (1537-1553), *Oxford English Dictionary*. There is excuse for its application to this and other species of herons, often ungainly in appearance and uncouth in action.

**COMMON EGRET (AMERICAN EGRET). Big plume crane(S).** "Plume" indicates it was one of the birds once involved in the millinery trade; many herons are mis-called cranes. **Big white crane(S).** See last re-

mark. **Big white skagen(N)**. See note on scoggin. **Long white(S)**. Name used by plume hunters, referring to the relative length of the "aigrettes" of this bird compared to those of the Snowy Egret. **Sanko liddy(S)**. Gullah name, possibly from the Hausa (African) term "tsangalumi," meaning tall animal or bird. Lorenzo D. Turner.

**SNOWY EGRET**. **Crane(N,S)**. Various herons are miscalled cranes. **Job(S)**. This term is believed to express the idea that some sort of poverty (Job's is proverbial) is responsible for the bird's scrawniness. But it is possible that the name traces through "poor job" to "poor Joe" and "pojo," the last an African name for heron, which may have been imported during slave-trading days (Lorenzo D. Turner). **Little plume crane(S)**. "Plume" indicates use of the species in the millinery traffic; see note on crane. **Little white crane(S)**. See note on crane. **Sanko liddy(S)**. See note on that name under Common Egret. **Scoggin(N)**. See note on that name under Great Blue Heron. **White crane**. See note on crane.

**LOUISIANA HERON**. **Poor Joe(N)**. See note on "job" under the Snowy Egret. **Lady of the lake(S)**. Probably a variant of Audubon's coinage, "lady of the waters," a tribute to its gracefulness. **Silver-gray crane(S)**. The body and wings of normal phase adults are neutral-gray. **Scoggin(N)**. The definition of scoggin as a "butt for ridicule" seems to refer to John Scoggin, court fool to Edward VI (1537-1553), *Oxford English Dictionary*. There is excuse for its application to this and other species of herons, often ungainly in appearance and uncouth in action. **White crane**. Herons are often miscalled cranes. **White scawgin**, **White scoggin**, **White scoggins(N)**. See note on scoggin. **White yaron(N)**. Latter term a dialectic form of heron. **White Franky(N)**. "Frank" is a British folkname for the European heron, most related to our Great Blue, hence we should expect a "Franky" name for that species, and trace both of them to this English usage.

**LITTLE BLUE HERON**. **Blue crane**. Herons are often miscalled cranes. **Calico bird(S)**. From the patched blue and white coloration of immature birds. **Crane(S)**. Various herons are miscalled cranes. **Gannet(N,S)**. The Wood Ibis is called gannet, perhaps from the similarity of its white coloration, with black wing-tips, to that of the sea gannet; vague resemblance to the ibis may have led to some of the herons sharing the name. **Little blue crane**. See note on crane. **Little po' Joe(S)**. Two theories prevail as to the origin of this and similar names. One would derive them from Poor Job, the Biblical character, in allusion to the scrawniness of the birds and their assumed misery; the other takes the name, "pojo," meaning heron in the Gullah dialect as a transfer. Lorenzo D. Turner, leading authority on such matters, says that a word, identical in sound and meaning, prevails among the Vai tribe of Liberia and Sierra Leone, Africa, whence it could have been imported during slave-trading days. **Little white crane**. Some of the birds are blue, some particolored, and some white. See note on crane. **Little white skagen(N)**. As to the last term, see note on scoggin. **Powder-touch(N)**. In allusion to the patched white and blue coloration of immature birds. **Quock(N)**. By confusion with the Black-crowned Night Heron, so called from its common cry. **Sanko liddy(S)**. Lorenzo D. Turner, master of African languages, suggests that this Gullah name may be derived from "tsangalumi," a Hausa word meaning tall animal or bird. **Scoggen**, **Scoggin(N)**. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, "scoggin" meaning "a butt for ridicule" seems to trace to John Scoggin, court fool to Edward VI (1537-1553). Application of the term to herons would have some justification from their at times ungainly appearance and uncouth movements. **Scout**, **Scow(N)**. By transfer from the Green Heron whose cry, on flushing, is imitated by these words. **Squawk(N)**. Perhaps in reference to the bird's own calls, but more likely from confusion with the Black-crowned Night heron, widely known as squawk. **Squoggins(N)**. Amalgamation of "squawk" and "scoggin," which see. **Storm bird(N)**. The birds flock inland from the larger waters when storms approach. **White crane**. Some of the birds are white. See note on crane. **White quock(N)**. See preceding note and

that on quock. **White scoggin**, **White skagen**(N). See second preceding note and that on scoggin.

**GREEN HERON**. **Fish hawk**(N). As an expert fisher. **Fly-up-the-creek**. Seen along small streams more frequently than are other herons, it may often comport with this name. **Indian hen**(N). One of the wild birds that are facetiously referred to as "hens" of the Indians. **King fisherman**(N). In tribute to its expertness in fishing. **Prairie chicken**(N). As a somewhat chicken-like bird inhabiting a savanna (or prairie) type of country. **Queen**(S). A Gullah name, that is possibly sonic, that is, in imitation of a cry of the bird. **Scout**(N,S). By confusion with the Green Heron, whose flushing cry is imitated by this word. **Scruffins**(N). Meaning unknown; any suggestions? **Sedge hen**(N). A somewhat hen-like bird seen about sedges. **Skow**(N,S). See note on scout. **Skowk**(N). Same as the preceding.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**. **Fool bird**(S). Because unsuspicious of man. **Indian pullet**(S). **Murrel hen**(S). For both of these terms see notes under the next species. **Quok**(N). From a common call.

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON**. **Fool bird**(S). Because sluggish and unsuspicious of man. **Gannet**(S). By strained transfer from the Wood Ibis of somewhat similar haunts. That species gets the name "gannet," apparently from the resemblance of its color pattern, white with black wing tips, to that of the sea gannet. **Gray quock**(N). Latter term in imitation of the bird's most common cry. **Indian pullet**(S). A wild bird, facetiously referred to as the poultry, specifically, pullet, of the Indians. **Murrel hen**(S). First term a variant of merle=bluish; "hen" as a sizable wild bird. **Quak**, **Quawk**, **Quok**. Generally used terms in imitation of the bird's most common cry. **Quow**(S). A combination of quok, which see, and scow, through confusion with the Green Heron, whose flushing note that word imitates. **Scoggin**(N). This name, applied to most herons, apparently derives from that of John Scoggin, court fool to Edward VI (1537-1553), and alludes to ungainly and uncouth traits of the birds. **Scow**(N). By transfer from the Green Heron whose flushing cry is imitated by that word. **Squawk**. A general term referring to the bird's most common cry.

**AMERICAN BITTERN**. **Bittrun**(N). Corruption of bittern. **Full-pot**(S). Gullah; the explanation given is that the bird is big enough to fill a pot; however, the term may be sonic on the plan of "bum chuck," "hit-log," and other appellations for this frequently sound-named species. **Grass hen**(S). The sizable wild bird or "hen" that lives among grasses. **Indian hen**, **Indian pullet**(S). Facetiously named as if it were poultry of the Indians. **Johnnie Gongle**(N). A familiar or "pet" name. **Lark**(N). Significance unknown; any suggestions? **Marsh hen**(S). As a sizable wild bird or "hen" that inhabits marshes. **Ma'sh scawgin**(N). See note on scoggin. **Pump-thunder**(N). The notes suggest the sounds made by an old-fashioned suction pump, and are far-carrying, though hardly loud enough to justify the term thunder. **Sage hen**(N). A sizable wild bird or "hen" that lives among the sage, i.e., sedges. **Scoggin**(S). This name, applied to most herons, apparently derives from that of John Scoggin, court fool to Edward VI (1537-1553), and alludes to ungainly and uncouth traits of the birds. **Scow**(N). By transfer from the Green Heron whose flushing cry is imitated by that word. **Squagin**(N). A variant of scoggin, which see. **Squawk**, **Squok**(N). By transfer from the night heron, whose common cry is imitated by these words. **Stake bird**(S). In reference to the stake-like posture of the bird when "freezing." **Stake-driver**. At a distance, the notes suggest resonant pounding. **Thunder-pump**. The notes suggest the sounds made by an old-fashioned suction pump, but they are hardly as loud as thunder.

**LEAST BITTERN**. **Fly-up-the-creek**(N). Probably through confusion with the Green Heron, which commonly bears this name. See under that species. **Mud clown**(N). **Poor Joe**(S). A term widely applied to herons; see note on "job" under Snowy Egret. **Scawgin**(N). See note under Great Blue Heron.

**WOOD IBIS. Flinthead(S).** Its head being bare and having a horny crownplate, this bird has received numerous names indicating hardness of head. **Gannet(S).** By transfer from the large sea fowl, ordinarily so-called, probably from the resemblance in color pattern—mostly white with black wingtips. **Gourdhead.** From the shape of the head, including beak, the latter being the “neck” of the “gourd.” **Hammerhead, Ironhead(S).** See note on flinthead. **Nigger turkey(S).** Probably derisive as indicating the kind of “turkey” fit for a “nigger.” Remember, this paper is on folknames, not racial issues. **Stork(S).** This bird deserves the name; it is our only representative of the stork family.

**WHITE IBIS. Brown curlew(Carolina, Catesby, 1731).** “Curlew” from the curved beak like that of the true curlews; the young of the year are brownish. **Mountain curlew(N).** “Mountain” a misnomer; the bird is a lowlander. **Curlew,** see preceding note. **Stone curlew(N).** Probably from that term in general natural histories; however, the bird rightfully bearing that name does not occur in North America. **Spanish curlew.** “Spanish” to distinguish it from the true curlews. **Spanish gannet(S).** Grouping with the Wood Ibis accounts for the term “gannet,” which see under that species; “Spanish” to indicate a different kind. **White curlew.** (General; early use, Carolina, Catesby, 1731). The adults are chiefly white; see note on curlew.

**ROSEATE SPOONBILL. Pink curlew.** A general name from its color and from its affinity with the ibises, which are commonly miscalled curlews. **Spoonbill(S,** early use Bartram, 1792). The bill is considerably expanded near the tip.

**WHISTLING SWAN. Hooper(Carolina, Lawson, 1714).** From a note. **Jail-bait(N).** Because protected by law, penalty for violating which might be a term in jail.

**CANADA GOOSE. Goose(N).** **Gray goose(Rather general).** **Honker.** From its call, “a-honk, a-honk.” **Marsh goose(N).** This name has been used to distinguish the smaller subspecies, *hutchinsi*. **Reef goose(N).** One that frequents reefs, probably of oyster shells, in contrast to the marsh; see preceding entry; this would then be the larger sub-species, *canadensis*. **Wild goose (universal).**

**SHOVELLER. Broadbill.** In allusion to its spatulate beak. **Cow-frog(N).** Significance unknown. Gurdon Trumbull in 1888 (*Names and Portraits of Birds*, p. 43) writes of finding this name at Morehead, and that “the oldest inhabitants tell of hearing it in use from early childhood.” **Oyster duck(N).** Meaning unknown. **Shovel-bill.** In allusion to the large, spatulate bill. **Shoveler.** Same note. **Shovel-mouth(S).** Same. **Shuffler(N).** Corruption of shoveler; though this name is given to the scaups and other ducks from their splattering along the water when taking to the wing. **Spoonbill, Spoonbill duck, Spoony.** With reference to the spatulate beak. **Spoonbill teal(N).** Same note; teal standing for duck. **Swaddle-bill(N,S).** Recorded from the Carolinas in the early 1700’s. “Swad,” English dialect for pod may apply here with reference to the expanded beak.

**RING-NECKED DUCK. Bastard redhead(N).** Probably refers to the female, deemed a hybrid of the true redhead. **Blackhead(N).** All scaup-like ducks are called blackheads; and so they appear at a distance. **Bluebill (N,S).** As an ally of the scaups, commonly called “bluebill,” and deserving the name far more than this species. **Bullneck, Bullneck blackhead(N).** The scaups and allies are widely called bullnecks, with no special relevance; the Ruddy Duck really is a bullneck, i.e., has a notably thick neck. See note on blackhead. **Cold-shin(N).** This name appears to be a corruption of “cochin,” and that a facetious reference to a wild bird as if it were poultry. **Hybrid duck(N).** Its similarity to, yet difference from, the scaup ducks, is popularly explained as being due to crossing. **Moon-bill(S).** In reference to the pale crossband near the front end of the bill. **Ring-billed shuffler(N).** See preceding note. “Shuffler” alludes to the treading water or shuffling these birds resort to when taking wing. **Ringneck(N,S).** From the narrow orange-brown ring about the neck of the male. **Tufted duck(N).** By con-

fusion with a related European species, pictures of which were seen in books; our species has no crown-tuft.

**GREATER SCAUP DUCK.** **Big blackhead.** At a distance the head appears black. **Big bluebill.** The bill is dull blue or lead color. **Black duck(N).** At a distance, the general dorsal coloration of males is black. **Black-head.** Disregarding sheen, the basic coloration of the head, neck, and breast of the male is black. **Black-headed raft duck(N).** The latter term refers to the birds assembling in dense flocks on the water, that appear solid or raft-like at a distance. **Bluebill, Bluebill duck.** See note on big bluebill. **Broadbill.** The bill, sometimes an inch wide, may be relatively broader than in most ducks. **Bull-neck(N,S).** The scaups and allies are widely called bullnecks, with no special relevance; the Ruddy Duck really is a bullneck, i.e. has a notably thick neck. **Coachen, Cold-shin(N).** These terms seem to come from "cochin," referring to the ducks as if they were a kind of wild poultry. **Raft duck(N).** See note on black-headed raft duck. **Sea black-head(N).** As having more of a tendency to go to sea than does the lesser scaup. See note on blackhead. **Shuffler.** In allusion to the water-treading, splattering, or shuffling these birds resort to when taking wing. **Whiffler** (Carolina, Lawson, 1714). From the pronounced winnowing sound made by its wings in flight.

**LESSER SCAUP DUCK.** **Black duck(N).** At a distance, the general dorsal coloration of males is black. **Blackhead.** Disregarding sheen, the basic coloration of the head, neck, and breast of the male is black. **Bluebill, Bluebill duck.** The bill is dull blue or lead color. **Broadbill.** The bill may be relatively a little broader than in most ducks. **Bullneck(N,S).** The scaups and allies are widely called bullnecks, with no special relevance; the Ruddy Duck really is a bullneck, i.e. has a notably thick neck. **Coachen, Coldshin(N).** These terms seem to come from "cochin," referring to the ducks as if they were a kind of wild poultry. **Knot(N).** Possibly meaning tough or hard to kill. **Little blackhead.** See note on blackhead. **Little bluebill.** See note on bluebill. **Raft blackhead(N).** "Raft" alludes to the birds assembling in dense flocks on the water, that appear solid or raft-like at a distance. See note on blackhead. **Raft duck(N).** See preceding note. **Shoveller** (Carolina, Lawson 1714). Perhaps by confusion with shuffler. **Shuffler(N).** In allusion to the water-treading, splattering, or shuffling these birds resort to when taking wing. **Whiffler** (Carolina, Lawson, 1714). From the pronounced winnowing sound made by its wings in flight.

**COMMON GOLDEN-EYE.** **Cock dipper(N).** Cock, probably has the sense of an attractive, or strikingly colored, bird; dipper=diver. **Creek duck(N).** As a frequenter of running water. **Dipper(N).** Diver. **Golden-eye.** The iris varies from pale to bright yellow. **Hardhead(N).** Puffiness of the feathers makes the head look large, suggesting the name "hammer-head" (La.) and other connoting hardness. **Iron-head(N).** See preceding note. **Oyster duck(N).** As feeding about oyster beds. **Trash duck(N).** Probably not specific to this bird; in market-hunting days this term covered all the unsalable species. **Whiffler, Whistle(N).** From the sound made by the wings in flight; it is unusually loud in this species. **Whistler, Whistle-wing.** See preceding note.

**BUFFLEHEAD.** **Butterball.** As being often very fat. **Cock dipper(N).** Cock, probably has the sense of an attractive, or strikingly colored bird; dipper=diver. **Creek duck(N).** As frequenting running water. **Dipper.** Diver. **Dipper duck(N).** Diver duck. **Fisher(N, Brickell 1737).** As a busy diver, fishing being assumed. **Hairy-crown teal(N).** Head feathers puffy, elongate on side and crown, especially in the male; "teal" as a small duck. **River dipper(N).** A diver frequenting rivers. **Scotch duck, Scotchman, Scotch teal(N).** Meaning of the adjective may be that of skimmed (because small) duck; teal definitely has that significance. **Wool-head(N).** The head has a profusion of long, soft feathers.

**OLD-SQUAW.** **Knock-molly, Knot-moll, Knot-polly, Knut-low, Not-molly, Nut-love(N).** Possibly in imitation of its notes. **Moll, Old maul(N).** The

last term may be a dialectic form of moll; and both may belong to the considerable variety of feminine names applied to this species in allusion to its "garrulity." **Old squaw**. The next preceding note applies. **Oyster duck(N)**. As frequenting oyster beds. **Pheasant duck(N)**. This term alludes to the long tail of the male. **Southerland, Southerly, South-southerly (N)**. Imitations of its notes.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER. Big-nose(N)**. The bill is enlarged at base, especially in the male. **Black coot(N)**. All of the scoters are called coots, although that name applies primarily to the lobe-footed mudhen. **Booby, Booby duck, Booley duck(N)**. The third name appears to be a corruption of the second; and the term "booby" means foolish, or unwary, in reference to the bird's slowness in taking wing. **Coot(N)**. See note on black coot. **Conch-nosed coot(N)**. The bill, especially in the male appears swollen; but even so, the term conch (= a large, marine snail) is hardly descriptive. See note on black coot. **Horse-nostril coot(N)**. The nostril has a swollen margin which may faintly suggest that of a horse. See note on black coot. **Muffle-jawed coot(N)**. In reference to the basal inflation of the bill. See note on black coot. **Old coot(N)**. "Old," a familiar term. See note on black coot. **Raft duck(S)**. From its gathering on the surface of the water in dense flocks, suggesting rafts. **Salt-water coot(N)**. All the scoters, while in the Carolinas, frequent salt, more than fresh water. See note on black coot. **Scooter(N)**. Perhaps a rationalization to give meaning to the word scoter, with respect to which dictionaries do not help us.

**SURF SCOTER. Big nose(N)**. The base of the bill is greatly enlarged. **Black coot(N)**. All of the scoters are called coots, although that name applies primarily to the lobe-footed mudhen. **Black flusterer**(Carolina, Lawson, 1709). The second term refers to the noisy splattering of the feet in the bird's take-off into flight. **Booby, Booby duck, Booley duck(N)**. The third name appears to be a corruption of the second; and the term "booby" means foolish or unwary, in reference to the bird's slowness in taking wing. **Conch-nosed coot(N)**. The bill, especially in the male, is greatly enlarged basally; but even so, the term conch (=a large, marine snail) is hardly descriptive. See note on black coot. **Coot**. See note on black coot. **Great bald coot**(Carolina, Lawson, 1709). "Bald" refers to white patches on the forehead and nape of the male. See note on black coot. **Horse-nostril coot (N)**. Probably by transfer from the white-winged scoter, as in the present species there is even less suggestion of a horse's nostril in the form of the narial part of the bill. See note on black coot. **Old coot(N)**. "Old," a familiar term. See note on black coot. **Raft duck(S)**. From its gathering on the surface of the water in dense flocks, suggesting rafts. **Salt-water coot(N)**. All the scoters, while in the Carolinas, frequent salt, more than fresh, water. See note on black coot. **Scooter(N)**. Perhaps a rationalization to give meaning to the word scoter, with respect to which dictionaries do not help us. **Sea coot(N)**. See notes on black coot and salt-water coot. **Sound booby(N)**. See note on "booby"; this one frequents the larger Sounds.

**BLACK SCOTER. Big nose(N)**. The bill of the male is enlarged basally. **Black coot(N)**. All of the scoters are called coots, although that name applies primarily to the lobe-footed mudhen. **Black duck(N)**. The male is largely black, the female, grayish-brown. **Booby, Booby duck, Booley duck (N)**. The third name appears to be a corruption of the second; and the term "booby" means foolish or unwary in reference to the bird's slowness in taking wing. **Butter-bill(N)**. The enlarged basal portion of the bill of the adult male is from yellow to orange. **Conch-nosed coot(N)**. The bill of the male is enlarged basally; but the term conch (= a large, sea snail) seems not at all descriptive. See note on black coot. **Coot(N)**. See note on black coot. **Horse-nostril, Horse-nostril coot(N)**. Probably by transfer from the White-Winged Scoter, as in the present species there is even less suggestion of a horse's nostril in the form of the narial part of the bill. See note on black coot. **Muffle-jawed coot(N)**. In reference to the basal inflation of

the bill. See note on black coot. **Old coot(N)**. "Old" a familiar term. See note on black coot. **Oyster coot(N)**. The female and young, which from different conformation of the bill and general coloration, are often regarded as of a different species; "oyster" may refer to their frequenting oyster beds. See note on black coot. **Raft duck(S)**. From its gathering on the surface of the water in dense flocks, suggesting rafts. **Red-billed coot(N)**. The bill of the male is in part orange. See note on black coot. **Salt-water coot(N)**. All the scoters, while in the Carolinas, frequent salt, more than fresh water. See note on black coot. **Scooter(N)**. Perhaps a rationalization to give meaning to the word scoter, with respect to which dictionaries do not help us. **Sea coot(N)**. See notes on black coot and saltwater coot.

**RUDDY DUCK. Booby(N)**. As being lethargic and unsuspicious of man. **Bristle-tail(N)**. The tail-feathers are stiff and pointed. **Bull-neck(N)**. In this species the neck is large, easily everting over the skull in skinning; in most other ducks, it is more slender and the skin must be cut to slip over the skull. **Butter-ball**. As being often very fat. **Dickey(S)**, **Dinke(N)**. The former term probably a variant of the latter, which means small. **Greaser(N)**. Meaning unknown. **Hard-head**, **Iron-head(N)**. Either because it is especially resistant, or more likely as being small, it escapes through gaps in the shot-pattern, this species has the reputation of being hard to kill. **Lazy duck(N)**. As being lethargic and slow to get out of man's way. **Leather-back**, **Leather-breeches(S)**. See note on hard-head. **Light-wood-knot(N)**. In recognition of its toughness. See note on hard-head. **Nibbling**, **Nubbin(N)**. As being small. **Noddy(N)**. Silly, as being often lethargic or unsuspicious of man. **Paddy(N)**, **Paddy bird(S)**, **Paddy-whack**, **Paddy whacker(N)**. Forms of a name, which in full appears to refer to the splattering of the feet that accompanies its taking off in flight. Since writing this comment, I have seen the term "patti-whack" as a Carolina name for the tough sinews in beef (George P. Wilson, *Publ. Amer. Dial. Soc.*, 2, 1944, p. 47), which suggests that paddy-whack may be only another of the terms referring to toughness of the Ruddy Duck. **Pod duck(S)**. From its gathering in "pods" or dense flocks. **Sleepy-head(N)**. As being often lethargic. **Stiff-tail**. The tail-feathers are unusually stiff.

**HOODED MERGANSER. Corn-peg(N)**. From the shape of the bill. **Crapper-crown(N)**. Refers to the conspicuous crest, but to what effect? **Fish duck**, **Fisherman(N)**, **Fisherman duck(N)**. One that captures fishes. **Fuzzy-head(S)**, **Hairy**, **Hairy-crown**, **Hairy-crowned teal**, **Hairy-crowned fish duck(N)**, **Hairy-head(N, S)**. All in reference to the ample crest. "Teal" as a small duck; "fish duck" in reference to its feeding habits. **Mop-head**, **Moss-head(S)**. In reference to its ample crest. **Peaked-bill(S)**. The bill is slender and pointed in contrast to the broad type characteristic of most ducks. **Pheasant**, **Pheasant duck(N)**. From the striking coloration of the male. **Sawbill**. The bill is provided with prominent serrations. **Shad-pole**, **Shag**, **Shag-poll(S)**. The first name is a corruption, and the second a shortening of the third; all refer to the bird's ample crest. **Sheldrake**. Sheld means pied and refers to the contrasting black and white coloration of the male. **Tadpole(S)**. As a small species. **Water pheasant(N)**. See note on pheasant.

**AMERICAN MERGANSER. Corn-peg(N)**. In reference to the shape of the bill. **Fish duck**, **Fisherman(N)**, **Fisherman duck(N)**. One that captures fishes. **Goosander**. This general term, applied to the same species in Great Britain is translated as goose-duck by Alfred Newton in his *Dictionary of Birds*. **Hairy-crown**, **Hairy-crown fish duck(N)**. These names, applied to all fish ducks, are least pertinent to this one, in which the male has a very slight crest; the female, however, has it further developed. **Morocco**, **Morocco-head(N)**. Applied to the female and young in reference to the reddish-brown color of the head, suggesting morocco leather. **Sawbill**. The bill has prominent serrations. **Shad-pole(S)**. Corruption of shag-pole (or poll), applied to mergansers in allusion to the crest, which, is only slightly developed in the male of this species.





## BACKYARD BIRDING

ANNIE RIVERS FAYER, Department Editor

The most interesting club bulletin ever to reach this department is "The Lesser Squawk" published by the Natural History Society of Charleston, S. C. The June issue opens with the announcement of the next meeting, and the rest of the page is sight records from the field. I would like to pass some of these on to you, hoping that they have not been reported in GFN already. One item of much interest to me was the following: "Arthur Godfrey (not a member of NHS) on May 10 read a release from the Audubon Society saying that a group in Washington has seen—and heard—one of our rarest birds, one unseen there for 16 years: the Bachman's Warbler."

The next page contains letters to the editors, together with this from Miss Betty Lemon:

An Oscar for the Kingbird!—If the Natural History Society ever presents any Oscars for bird performers, I hope the first one goes to the Eastern Kingbird. His antics probably furnish more entertainment for the binocular battalion than do the shenanigans of any other member of the bird world.

A pair arrived in our garden in May. They were evidently part of a wandering troupe because the next day I noted the entire length of Sullivan's Island was well populated with these handsome show-offs! Certainly no other bird is so consistently, so nattily attired. . . . he is every inch the actor with his formal black coat and white front . . . even the suggestion of a black Homburg on his head!

The show opened the morning I noted their arrival. While heading for my car I noticed a great to-do about one of the trees on the street in which two Kingbirds were putting on quite a performance. They were jousting with a piece of cotton string about eight feet long, hanging from a limb 15 feet above the ground.

The twine was blowing free, caught by a lively Island breeze, and the Kingbird had hold of the nether end of it, tugging with all his might to free the end of it from the limb. The female was playing prima donna . . . fluttering about, chattering encouragingly all the while. The bird would pull the string its full length from the tree; then it would grow taut and snap out of his bill. Undaunted, however, he would start all over, finally catching the fluttering end of the string and again starting his mighty tug of war. I watched this to-do about ten minutes, but finally had to leave. Whether he got it or not, I'll never know, but that evening the string was gone from the tree. How the lovely lady ever wove eight feet of string into her nest is a mystery. . . . Keep your eye on the Kingbird if you want a good show. How about it? Any more nominations for the Bird Oscar?

Random Notes from Critter Hill.—June 8, 1954. At about 7:30 this



evening Norman and I *watched* a Whip-poor-will while it called from the ridge of our roof, directly over the kitchen. We were indoors when it started, but not for long. Picking up glasses on the way, we slipped out and backed away from the house until we could see the bird clearly against a fairly light sky. It was sitting along the composition ridge capping, about three feet from the chimney and facing away from it. There was enough light left to get a bit more than a silhouette. The bird had continued to call without interruption and we easily heard the low *kuk* that comes between each complete call. For the first time for both of us, we watched the mouth and body action that accompanies the calling. The "whip" and "poor" notes came out with no noticeable opening of the mouth. The "will" was driven with considerable force. The mouth opened abruptly to some sixty degrees and then closed as quickly. At the same moment, the tail, or the ends of the primaries—or both—jerked upward sharply. We wondered if it was just the wings. There wasn't enough light to see the shoulders but they must have moved with the lung action that produced such a vociferous note. As for the fourth—or first—note, the low "kuk," I got the impression that it had to do with breath catching, but I couldn't be sure. The complete calls pour out at a rate somewhat above one per second and they go on and on and on. Somewhere in the train there is inhaling and it doesn't seem to be in or between the principal notes. Our bird flew after a demonstration of a couple of minutes.—B. R. Chamberlain.

*Garden Birds* by Phyllis Barclay-Smith is a little book that I have enjoyed because it gives us a glimpse of backyard birding as it is done in the gardens of England. Miss Barclay-Smith begins with the statement that "garden birds vary as much as the gardens themselves." Large estates used to form natural reserves, but the breaking up of many large holdings are forcing songbirds from their natural haunts. So the idea of converting even the smallest garden into a place attractive to birds by planting berry and fruit bearing shrubs, putting up nesting boxes, and furnishing water for drinking and bathing is urged by the writer. There, as here, the greatest foe the birds have is the cat. The English law says that cats cannot trespass, so all that can be done is to train dogs to chase them out of their gardens! Their favorite nesting box is very much like the one recommended for our Bluebirds. The lady has quite a good bit to say about providing nesting material for birds. They seem to need this more than our birds. Otherwise, the requirements as to food and water are about the same as ours. One comment she makes is to remind gardeners that if birds have plenty of water provided for them in the summer, they will be less likely to make attacks on fruit. (Maybe so, but our birdbath is under the fig tree, and the birds still eat all the figs!) Their feeders are spoken of as tables, and they have trays fixed on window-sills, but they feed their birds crumbs, small grains and suet, just as we do. People are urged to put out plenty of food for birds in cold weather. Birds can stand low temperatures if they have sufficient food to keep their body temperature up. When they are starving and their temperatures drop is when they die. Several pages of the book cover a discussion of bird behavior as it may be studied from observing birds on a feeder or window tray. Some ornithologists are said to believe that small birds as a whole are decreasing, and that the situation in regard to agriculture and horticulture may become serious, for the birds form the first line of defense against insect pests. I will quote part of the last paragraph: "The fundamental of all bird watching is patience, and this patience will be rewarded a thousand fold, for one of the most encouraging aspects of nature observation is that the merest amateur may come across the most valuable discovery. Bird watching is also an unending interest and pleasure, whether it be confined to a small village or extend to all the continents of the world, for there is always something new to be found out. In addition, a love of nature is a link which is perhaps one of the strongest between men in the world today—for in nature one is back to essentials and political differences and difficulties fade away in the background."

Twenty color prints that form the rest of the book are reproduced from John Gould's *The Birds of Great Britain*.—Dept. Ed.

## EDITORIAL—News, Reviews & Announcements.

As you have probably already seen, in this issue appears the first installment of *Carolina Bird Names* by Dr. W. L. McAtee, for many years with the Fish & Wildlife Service (formerly the Bureau of Biological Survey) of the Federal Government.

The editors of THE CHAT feel very fortunate in that this interesting and valuable series of folk names was made available to us by Dr. McAtee. For his continued interest in THE CHAT, we offer Dr. McAtee our thanks.

Reprints of a final brochure which will include the series of three installments, will be made after the third and last installment appears in the March CHAT. Definite prices will be announced in the December CHAT with the printing of the second installment in the series. The cost of the brochure will be nominal. We already have orders for 250. Reprints may be obtained by writing to Dr. Thomas L. Quay, Box 5215, State College Station, Raleigh, N. C.

*Land Birds of America.* Robert Cushman Murphy and Dean Amadon. 240 pages, 9" x 12". Illustrated with 264 photographs, 221 in color, by over 30 of America's foremost photographers and including a chapter on bird photography by Eliot Porter. \$12.50. McGraw Hill, N. Y., in cooperation with The American Museum of Natural History. 1953.

This is a magnificent book of extraordinarily high quality. It covers all groups of land birds and the entire United States and Canada. The text does not attempt to be exhaustive, but provides very satisfactory and up-to-date summaries of each of the natural groups of birds. In this respect, *Land Birds of America* is an excellent *general ornithology*, and fills an important gap in the increasing flow of new books on birds. The photographs alone are priceless treasures, many being full-page and in faithful color. This is a book anyone would be glad to own, regardless of previous experience, knowledge, or library.—T. L. QUAY.

*Songbirds of America.* Dr. A. A. Allen and Dr. P. P. Kellogg, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University. 27 pp; 10 x 10 inches. Illus. with 24 full color photographs by Dr. Allen; Volume includes a single record, available in 33-1/3 Long Playing or 45 Extended Play. \$4.95. Book-Records, Inc., 680 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. Here is the original "Soundbook on Birds," indeed a unique idea in listening, learning and seeing. The authors have chosen 24 of our most familiar birds with an interesting commentary on their range, size, habits, etc., keyed to perfect color reproductions of photographs taken in the field, and recordings of their songs.

The authoritative and easily understood text with additional illustrations and sketches, preceding and following the commentary and color plates, makes this an amazing and complete volume. The foreword is by Roger Tory Peterson, followed by a significant laudation of the influence of birds on the hearts of men; a brief text on this continent's flyways with a map; birds' usefulness to man and an explanation of color—why a Bluebird or Indigo Bunting sometimes appears to be so black. The ways of birds, their music; some facts about the recording methods of bird songs; photographing birds and attracting them to yards and gardens, and a full page list of books, records and published material to aid in further study of birds.

This "3-dimension" volume is a milestone in the field of nature study. Will Dr. Allen and Dr. Kellogg now give us Volume two, and lay plans for succeeding volumes?—K.C.S.

Announcement is made at this time of the Fall Meeting of CBC, to be held at Blowing Rock, N. C., on September 25-26, 1954. Details of the meeting and accommodations will be given in the *Newsletter*.

We wish to thank Harry T. Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C., for his generous gift of a copy of *Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley & Brimley, for use by the editors of THE CHAT.—Ed.

# BREEDING HABITS OF THE CATBIRD

MRS. G. E. CHARLES

My first acquaintance with the Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, was at my childhood home in Davie County, North Carolina. There and then I learned from my father to hate this bird because of its destructiveness to the cherry crop which he grew for the market on our farm.

I learned very little about the habits of this rather shy but friendly member of the Mockingbird family in these early years. I remember that now and then numbers of them would scold at us as we gathered cherries, and they would snatch one here and there and fly away into the briar thicket beyond.

Years later when I became interested in birds and began to read books on the subject, I was surprised to find that the Catbird was not generally hated at all. At the time of this awakening I was living in West Columbia, Lexington County, South Carolina.

Our backyard sloped down to a wooded area with thick undergrowth and some swampy territory through which ran a stream of water. On the hill-sides were blackberry briar thickets, a clump of French-Mulberry, some privet hedge and wild cherry trees. In the swampy area were plenty of elder-berry bushes and pokeweed (commonly called pokeberry), all of these making the place a haven for Catbirds through the nesting season. Also, Catbirds are fond of small fruit, both wild and cultivated.

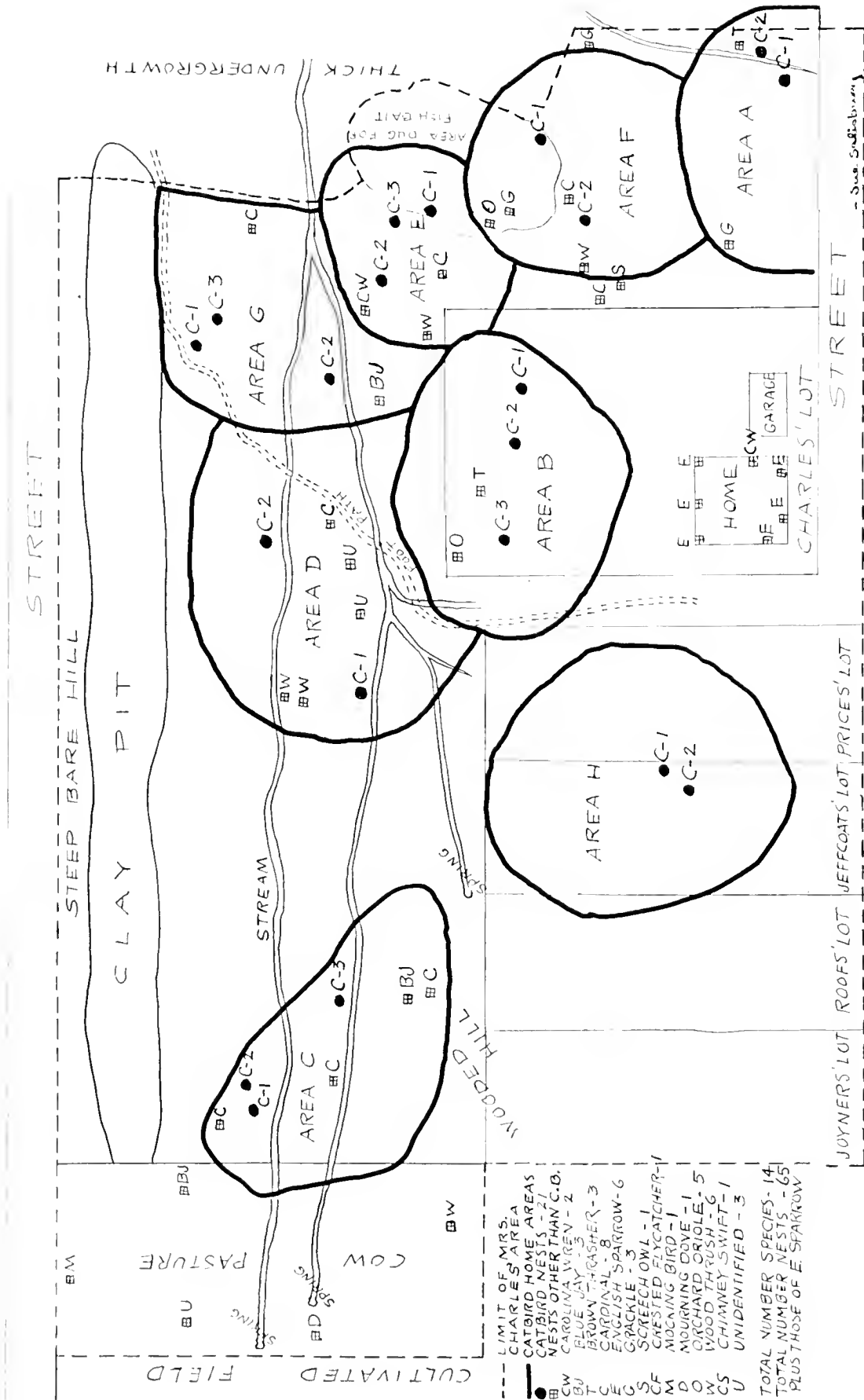
I soon forgot my dislike for this attractive, well-groomed songbird and wanted to know more about its habits. So in the early part of 1939, at the suggestion of E. B. Chamberlain, I set myself to the task of making a special study of the breeding habits of the Catbird. This study was continued over a period of three years—1939, 1940 and 1941.

I was assisted in this work by James Price, a Boy Scout living next door, whose job it was to climb trees, crawl through thick briars, or to do whatever was needed to reach nests I could not reach unaided. My daughter, Essie Mae (now Mrs. W. B. Dawsey), also helped me by drawing a diagram of the nesting territory each year, showing the location of the home area of each nesting pair of Catbirds and the location of each nest therein. We also added other nesting species as you will see by the map.

A copy of this diagram, along with a copy of my book of notes, material for which I gathered by spending one hour a day making close observations on nesting Catbirds, was sent at the end of each season to E. B. Chamberlain at the Charleston Museum.

The first Catbird of each season arrived April 12. Sometime between then and April 19 they became plentiful. They were in song when they arrived and the courtship performance began at once.

Much is said about the courtship of the Flicker, but little or nothing about that of the Catbird, which is equally interesting. The male puffs up to twice his normal size. His neck and tail stretched in line with his body, look like a stick stuck through a ball of feathers. In this odd shape, he moves about on a limb or on the feeding shelf, trying to draw the attention of his prospective mate. If she flies away without notice of him, he either follows her to make further effort, or sits and cries in his cat-like notes.



- See Subdivision

STREET

CHARLES' LOT

JOYNER'S LOT ROOF'S LOT JEFFCOAT'S LOT PRICES' LOT

--- LIMIT OF MRS. CHARLES' AREA  
 CATBIRD HOME AREAS  
 CATBIRD NESTS - 14  
 NESTS OTHER THAN C.O.  
 CAROLINA WREN - 2  
 BLUE JAY - 3  
 BROWN THRASHER - 3  
 CARDINAL - 8  
 ENGLISH SPARROW - 6  
 GRACKLE - 3  
 SCREECH OWL - 1  
 CRESTED FLICKER - 1  
 MOCKING BIRD - 1  
 MORNING DOVE - 1  
 ORCHARD ORIOLE - 5  
 WOOD THRUSH - 6  
 CHIMNEY SWIFT - 1  
 UNIDENTIFIED - 3  
 TOTAL NUMBER SPECIES - 14  
 TOTAL NUMBER NESTS - 65  
 PLUS THOSE OF E. SPARROW

We are prone to think of birds as mixing miscellaneous through the fields and woods with no system about their behavior. This is certainly not true of the Catbird.

I learned that each nesting pair selects a home area at the beginning of the breeding season and holds it to the end regardless of how many nests might be robbed or destroyed. This of course does not mean that the birds never fly beyond their home areas. It means that all nests are built in the area selected and that no pair skips over the home area of another pair to build a nest.

A Catbird has a very strong attachment for its home area. A pair nesting near my garden in 1941 had eggs stolen from their first nest. They built another only a few feet from the first. On June 16 when the three eggs were hatching, the mother bird disappeared. Her mate sang with all his might until dark that afternoon while the little birds died from lack of attention. He held his territory and sang until near the end of July; but no mate came to him. I saw him attempt to court a bird that came near, but she flew away uninterested.

I knew his song from that of his neighbors because he so often mocked the Red-winged Blackbird. And too, I noticed his interest in the first nest of the season. One day as I sat quietly under his favorite bushes listening to his song, all at once the notes grew softer and he crept into nest number one and sat there for a minute or so, still singing in subdued notes. I had added nest number two to my collection and regretted it lest it too might mean something to him if he had it.

A pair of Catbirds may build a nest ten or twelve feet from an occupied nest of a bird of some other species, but I found that none built less than sixty feet from an occupied Catbird's nest.

In 1939 Catbirds built a nest in a tangle of briars back of my garden eleven and a third feet from a Cardinal's nest that contained young birds.

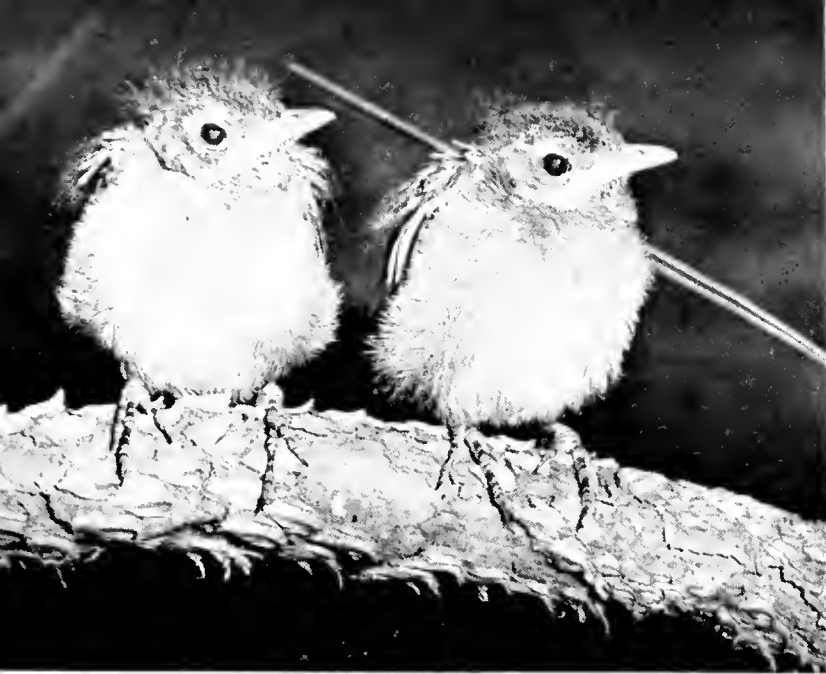
Seven pairs of Catbirds nested in 1939 in my birding territory of about four or five acres. The same number nested in 1940; and in 1941 there were eight pairs. The first year I found twenty-seven nests. In each of the other years I found twenty-one nests, making a total of sixty-nine for the three years. Of course quite a few were not found due to standing water, thickness of undergrowth, etc.

My records show that the Catbirds in my study area usually built three nests and raised three broods a season. First nests had four eggs each. Later ones four, three, or even sometimes only two. The time required for a Catbird to incubate a set of eggs and raise a brood to fledgling stage is twenty-three or twenty-four days. In cases where nests are disturbed the birds will build again and again until a brood is raised or the season is out.

As to how soon the birds will build again after a nest is robbed, may depend somewhat on the lateness of the season and on the stage of development of the contents of the nest at the time of the disturbance.

About 12:30 o'clock on June 2, 1941, I found a snake making a meal of a brood of Catbirds in a nest near my garden. Twenty-seven hours later, at 3:30 o'clock the next day the birds started another nest. One week from the date of the snake tragedy the new nest had the first two of a set of three eggs.

Nesting seasons are a bit earlier some years than others. In my birding



*Two young Catbirds taken from nest on opposite page to have their picture made. They were just about old enough to leave.*

*Photo by Jack Dermid,  
Courtesy N. C.  
Wildlife Resources Comm.*

area in 1939 two Catbird's nests were built in April; in 1940 there was one in April; in 1941 four were built and a fifth begun in April.

The earliest nest I have on record was found on the morning of April 20, 1939. Then it was but a small bunch of twigs. It had its first egg on April 27, which is my earliest date for a Catbird's egg. My earliest date for a young brood to fly from the nest was May 25, 1941. I do not have an exact date as to when the latest brood reached nest-leaving stage.

Here are some other facts I have recorded: September 14, 1939, I found a very young Catbird perched in an elder. It apparently had not been out of the nest more than a day or two. The next day I went to the same place and found two young birds perched in an elder and being fed by a parent bird. I looked them over carefully and they were indeed very immature. I didn't think they could have been fifteen days old. In that case, they had hatched in September.

Such late broods are the results of early nesting efforts having been disturbed. Breeding Catbirds have quite a few enemies. Those in my birding area, as far as I was able to determine, were Grackles, Blue Jays, snakes, rats, alley cats and mischievous boys.

Of the sixty-nine nests I found in the three-year period and watched as closely as circumstances permitted, there were only thirty-one that I was definitely certain were successful. Of the twenty-two pairs of nesting birds, there was just one pair that went through a season with no mishaps. I found their first nest April 27, 1939 which was a few days after they had begun to build it. Their third brood took wing August 6, their nesting season being about three and one-half months.

A Catbird's nest is constructed of a foundation of twigs, an inner layer of dry leaves, paper, strips of bark, etc., and lining of rootlets. Sometimes there is a departure from this normal pattern.

A nest I found near a little space for a garden that had been dug at the edge of the woods exposing many roots, was constructed entirely of roots; larger ones for the foundation and tapering to rootlets for lining. A nest near a fence, in the construction of which many new cedar posts had been used, was altogether of cedar bark, except the lining of rootlets. That part never varies except in the color of the rootlets. The Catbird seems to prefer them black but can't always find black ones and will use brown.

Usually a Catbird's nest is built from four to six feet above the ground. But there is sometimes some departure from this normal height. The highest nest I have on record was thirty-one and one-half feet up in a Chinaberry tree in our back yard. The lowest was twenty-eight inches up in briars and a small bush growing in mud and standing water.

The summer song season of my West Columbia Catbirds ended about the middle of August. In the fall, like their cousin the Mockingbird, they had what slightly approached a second song season. At this time they sang in subdued notes, sometimes almost in a whisper.

In October the birds began to disappear and by the middle of the month they were about all gone. Rarely did I find one in winter.

The Catbird is said to be a permanent resident in South Carolina, "but is not common in the Low-country in summer" (Sprunt and Chamberlain in *South Carolina Bird Life*).

I have been a resident of Aynor in Horry County, South Carolina, since December, 1950 and have not seen a Catbird here in winter. A few are seen regularly in summer, and I am wondering if the species may breed sparingly in this area.

Sometime in May, 1953 I saw a Catbird gather a bill full of nest material in my garden and carry it into a little thicket of bushes and briars in our back lot I had reserved for birds. Later I saw a Catbird fly in that same direction with something in its bill that I thought was food for young.

I was ill that summer and thus unable to follow up the birds to be certain. In November I went out to look for nests and found two that were typical as to size, location and kinds of material used in their construction.

*Catbird at nest in Holly tree, Wake Co., N. C., June, 1953.*

*Photo by Jack Dermid, Courtesy N. C. Wildlife Resources Comm.*



My first Catbird of 1954 arrived April 6. He sang until a mate came a few days later. The two lived about the yard and garden, coming often to the bird bath and feeder.

July 6 I found their nest (my first occupied Catbird's nest in Horry County). It was seven and a half feet up in vines in a sweetgum bush in our back lot and only a few feet from one of the nests found in November. It was more than half full of young birds, either three or four in number and apparently about a week old.

In the late afternoon of July 9 I went again to the nest, better equipped to observe its contents and with my daughter to assist. Then only one immature bird remained in it. The other two or three had, no doubt, taken wing that day. The next morning at 6 o'clock this one was sitting on a twig about six inches from the nest and looking quite able to take his first flight.

I am hoping that all CBC members who live in Horry County will get busy and check Catbird behavior on their premises and report their findings to *The Chat* to be compared with mine.—Aynor, S. C.

(Map on page 74 is for the year 1941—Ed.)

---

## STUDY YOUR BIRD

By Alice Carver Cramer

*"Gray-checked thrush . . . identified, when seen very well, by its grayish cheeks and by its inconspicuous eye-ring. Similar species:— . . . Olive-backed thrush . . . has buffy cheeks and a conspicuous buffy eye-ring . . . Study your bird very carefully . . . it is sometimes not safe to try to distinguish them."*

—Peterson, "A Field Guide to the Birds" (second ed.) pp. 172-3.

**Q**UICK with the Peterson, quick with the glasses  
Quick while the dew still ensparkles the grasses  
Quick to the hedgerows and meadows: time passes.

*You must study your bird, study your bird.*

A male-in-eclipse do I see in that bush

Or some different species? A warbler? A thrush?

The size: is it big as a robin, or smaller?

Fatter or thinner? Shorter or taller?

Is it a curlew, a knot, or not?

And if not a knot pray tell me, what?

Sanderling? Stilt? Godwit? God wot!

*Study your bird, study your bird.*

Look at the wing-bars: distinct? indistinct?

Look at the eye-ring: what do you think?

The rump: is it grayish, or would you say white?

Remember how color's affected by light!

The wings: do they form a dihedral in flight

Or a mere horizontal? Look quickly, it might

Be a kestrel!

The glasses!

Too late—out of sight!

*You must study your bird, study your bird, study your bird.*

[Reprinted with kind permission of Alice Carver Cramer and *The Saturday Review*.]





## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

J. W. E. (Bill) Joyner, our most prolific contributor of bird lore—much of which is beyond our slim page allotment—asks that we solicit notes on incubation periods, size of clutches, number of broods, dates, etc., for Carolina nesting species. Its a good cause. Bill's address is: 1504 Lindy Avenue, Rocky Mount, N. C.

**Common Loon at Eastover, S. C.**—A live, mature Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) was found on a roadside near Eastover, S. C., May 3, 1954. The bird seemed to have an injured foot. It was beautiful and we released it on nearby Armour pond. On May 21st, it flew to neighboring Yelton's pond, and was gone from there on May 27. It called "Ah-ooo."—MRS. W. H. FAVER, *Eastover, S. C.*

**Banding Returns.**—A Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*) collected in North-East River near Wilmington, N. C., Apr. 16, 1947, by John B. Funderburg, Jr., bore band number 41-809636, placed June 30, 1941 at Kamousaka County, Quebec, Canada. *Birds of North Carolina* (1942) records a similar bird taken at Cape Hatteras, Oct. 18, 1923, that had also been banded in Quebec, in Saguenay County.

**Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*):** Band recovered by James T. Burns, *Raleigh, N. C.* Bird collected Nov. 20, 1953 in Black River, 35 miles from Wilmington, N. C.; male, banded while an immature at Perch Lake, Jefferson County, N. Y., by Rolla Parker and Donald Schierbaum (N. Y. State Conservation Dept.). Band No. 495-55153.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Late Widgeon.**—Nine American Widgeon were seen at King's Pond about three miles south of Raleigh, on the afternoon of May 6, 1954. The flock consisted of five males and four females. The birds first approached at about 5:20 p.m. and, whistling continuously, circled the pond for about ten minutes. After two or three false starts, they settled on the pond, keeping to the lower end away from human presence. Two pairs of the birds were apparently mated, but the remaining five birds showed less attachment for any particular companion. At 6:20 p.m. the flock was flushed by approaching fishermen, but after circling several times, again settled on the pond. At about 6:30 p.m. the birds were again disturbed and departed toward Lake Johnson to the northwest. There are no submerged aquatics in this deep, muddy, eight acre pond and none of the birds were seen attempting to feed. This seems to be an unusually late date for the occurrence of Widgeon this far south. These were probably passing migrants. In the coastal areas they are not often seen after about April 15th.—YATES M. BARBER, JR. AND DON BAKER, *Raleigh, N. C.* (Widgeon were late at

other localities this summer. At Wilmington they remained as late as May 15, and at inland Greenville, N. C., they were seen on May 1st.—*Dept. Ed.*)

**A Northern Phalarope at Rocky Mount, N. C.**—On May 27, 1954, a male Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus*) was observed on City Lake, Rocky Mount, N. C., by J. W. E. Joyner and others. The bird remained from about noon to dusk and spent most of the time feeding close to the lake shore, ignoring automobile traffic on the adjacent highway. It was studied at length at distances as close as *ten* feet, and field marks including a black needle-like bill, back stripe, and a reddish-brown tinge over the back and side of the neck, were carefully noted. In flight, the white wing-stripe was conspicuous. The Northern Phalarope is a rare transient in the Carolinas.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Behavior: Doves, Jays, Crows.**—On March 10, 1954 I photographed a Mourning Dove at Red Oak, N. C., that had been sitting for two weeks. On March 17 I made more pictures and found one young on the nest that appeared to be several days old. It was well covered with pin feathers. Beneath the nest was a dead bird that must have fallen out that very day—it was the size of the bird in the nest. Today (March 31), I checked by this nest and found quite a story:

Mr. Nero Bass, in whose yard the nest is located, told me as I drove up that he had just ten minutes before placed the young bird back in the nest after shooting off a flock of Blue Jays that had knocked it off the nest and had done considerable damage to the youngster. We couldn't see the bird on the nest and a thorough search proved it to be hiding under a shrub. It appeared to me to be grown enough to fly. It was certainly over three weeks old. I found a patch of feathers on the ground and was told they had been pecked out by the Jays. The attack had been concentrated on the side under the wing. Mr. Bass told me there were several Jays involved in the fracas and they were first noticed at the nest. He did not see any Crows, although I am inclined to think that they might have started it and attracted the Jays. The nest was about 20 feet up in a Red Maple. There were scattered keys and no leaves on the branches today. Mr. Bass has declared war on Jays.

Charlie Benbow called me last week-end to say that a Crow had broken up a Dove nest in his yard, killing one of the young while the other flew off despite some injuries. This youngster was not found by the adults who only put up a broken wing act to protect it. It died the next day.

Back in 1946 (April 10) a Crow destroyed a Dove nest in my yard before I could scare it away. It bit the head off a young bird that was so large I first thought it to be grown. One of the adults played injured.—J. W. E. JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.*

**Some Birds of Balsam Gap.**—Specific localities are not too abundantly supplied in *Birds of North Carolina* for many species breeding in the high mountains. For that reason it may be worth while to mention some of the birds seen at Balsam Gap, where I spent part of the morning of June 12, 1954. Balsam Gap, on the Blue Ridge Parkway, just west of Mt. Mitchell, on the line between Buncombe and Yancey counties, is at an elevation of 5,317 feet. The surrounding forest still has a good amount of spruce. From the gap a logging road leads northward through mixed woods; and a hundred yards east of the gap, behind a knoll, a trail runs north through a nice stand of big spruce.

Although I did not see the bird, the unmistakable, slowed-up tapping of a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was heard. The typical Canadian Zone Red-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, and Golden-crowned Kinglets were common, the wrens singing not only in the heavy spruce but in the mixed woods where spruces were scattered. Veeries were heard on all sides. Two Cedar Waxwings, presumably a pair, were seen together. Black-throated Green Warblers were surprisingly abundant, nine males being heard. Blackburnian, Cairns's, Chestnut-sided, and Canada Warblers were common, as were Mountain Vireos and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks.—J. J. MURRAY, *Lexington, Virginia.*

**Unusual Nest Site.**—The city of Hickory's water filter plant has a furnace room in the basement right under the room where the big, noisy pumps are located. This basement room has regular windows below the ground level which are down in holes walled off by brick walls for each window so that they may be of some service in admitting light and providing ventilation.

A Phoebe chose one of these window sills for a nesting place. When I saw the nest some weeks ago, it contained five white eggs and the bird was setting. The nest was very large and high, giving the appearance of having been repaired for the last several years; and it had a long string of typical mud-daubed material along the sill leading from it, as if placed there to reinforce the foundation of the nest.

I have seen Phoebe nests on window sills before, but they were not six feet down in a hole below the ground surface.—J. WESTON CLINARD, *Hickory, N. C., May 24, 1954.*

**Cedar Waxwings Nesting.**—*Rocky Mount* (upper Coastal North Carolina) *May 31, 1954*—Charlie Benbow has a pair of Cedar Waxwings nesting in his front yard. Anne Benbow spotted them last Friday (May 28). When I went around, the two birds were in a neighboring pine.

The nest is built at the tip of a pine bough about 40 feet from the ground. It is just back from a cluster of cones and within a foot of branching new growth. The tip of the branch is well exposed and if I can get my 200 plus, about 60 feet up in the pine, I'm going to get pictures or break—something. The nest appears to be about six inches in diameter and about four inches deep—something like a big ball. The Benbows report that evidently eggs are being laid.—There are too many Crows and Grackles always flying around. I don't see how they can miss it. I don't plan pictures until the young are hatched.

*June 10*—Had a friend go up for a preliminary survey. The nest is 38 feet from the ground. The female (?) sat tight yesterday and the eggs should just about be hatched.

*June 19*—Tough luck with the Cedar Waxwings. Late on the afternoon of the 15th, I watched the nest from the ground for some time. The female (?) was seen to peer over the edge several times—On the 16th, we had a heavy rain late in the afternoon and I didn't get around. On the 17th, I watched the nest for perhaps 20 minutes and saw no activity of any kind. The next day Benbow watched and determined that the old birds had left.—I am inclined to surmise that some lightweight bird, such as a Grackle, robbed the nest; there was no apparent damage done to it as seen from the ground.

Incidentally, Benbow reported two flocks of Waxwings flying around recently. Tonight, at about 7 p.m., a flock of perhaps 25 flew over my back yard.—J. W. E. JOYNER, *Rocky Mount, N. C.*

**Black-throated Green Warbler Nesting.**—Apparently the Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens virens*) and Wayne's Warbler (*D. v. waynei*) cannot be separated dependably by sight or sound records. Presumably, a Black-throated Green Warbler found nesting in the coastal Carolinas is Wayne's Warbler, whereas a nester in the western mountain area is probably *waynei* but possibly *virens*. How far toward the coast *virens* may breed is unknown and will remain so in the absence of collecting. Regardless of race, the following contributions are very interesting.

"On April 11, 1954, one mile north of *Bolivia* (Brunswick Co., N. C.) in the edge of a small swamp I saw a female Black-throated Green Warbler regularly carrying nesting material to a small clump of smilax and yellow jessamine vines on a tupelo limb. The site was about 2 feet from the trunk and about 30 feet above the ground. The next day the female was still working on the nest. Now barely visible through the vines, it was saddled on the limb. Due to pressure of school work, I was unable to visit the site frequently. April 16 the female was seen to enter the nest. May 8, I saw the male carry a worm to the nest and leave without it. Although the male often sang and was frequently observed in the woods near the nest, that was the only time I actually saw it enter. On May 16, I discovered the

female feeding at least 2 young birds in the bushes below the nest. I notified Mrs. Appleberry, and on May 22, she, Mrs. Mebane, Mrs. W. R. Baker, and I visited the place. We observed the female feeding 2 young in the brush at a distance of about 15 feet, and also heard the male sing.

"The nest, which I now have, is rather fragile. It is composed chiefly of cypress bark, with fine weed stalks or grass; and a few feathers, mostly red, are in the lining.

"Referring to *South Carolina Bird Life*, Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949), I believe that this is the *waynei* subspecies. According to *Birds of North Carolina*, Pearson, Brimley, and Brimley (1942), no nest had actually been collected of this bird in eastern North Carolina. I wonder if one has since been taken?"—CLIFFORD M. COMEAU, *Bolivia, N. C.*, June 16, 1954.

The second report comes from New London, N. C.:

"As you may remember, I have said several times that I thought the Black-throated Green Warbler (Wayne's?—I don't think so) was nesting in this area. I have had no actual proof though I have heard its very distinctive song many times in May and June along the banks of the Yadkin River about 5 miles northwest of here.

"Now I do have proof but from a (slightly) different area. On Monday, May 24 I drove to Morrow Mountain (Stanly County, N. C.) with three boys for a field trip. We were actually in the park on the road leading to the picnic grounds and pool. One of the boys spotted a warbler in a poplar near the road. It proved to be a male Black-throated Green Warbler foraging in a low limb overhanging the road. He came quite close and we watched him for some five minutes. Then he flew over our heads to another poplar across the road. There he flew down to within five feet of us. Then he was joined by a female and they flew higher into the tree where they both fed a fledgling just out of the nest. We stayed and watched this procedure repeated several times. The locale was not exactly the kind I associate with these wonderful little birds as I remember the hemlock forests of the mountains of North Carolina, and Hog Island, Maine. There were one or two very large white pines in the area but it had a predominance of thick, almost impenetrable undergrowth of laurel with very large (10-15 inch diameter) poplars, sycamores, and oaks.—We searched for the nest but had no luck.—This was not the end, however. On June 4, I was at the (Yadkin) River, about a mile above the bridge in the same sort of habitat but with less thick undergrowth. Again I heard the song, saw the male and watched him long enough to locate a very noisy and demanding young being fed in an oak, quite high up."—JOHN TROTT, *New London, N. C.*

Comeau's find near the coast at Bolivia is very noteworthy in that the nest was seen in use and collected. After a check of the files of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Patuxent Research Refuge, it appears to be the first for North Carolina and the fourth recorded anywhere. There are several records of out-of-nest young being found.

As for Trott's observations at Morrow Mountain and nearby New London, these are central Piedmont areas, some 150 miles inland and having elevations around 600 feet. These are the first records of breeding in this area that we have.—*Dept. Ed.*

**Anting.**—"On May 29, 1954, I saw a female Cardinal anting in the driveway off the panhandle of Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, N. C. The bird gathered the ants here and there over a space of several square yards and applied them to the hard parts of its primaries and tail feathers. Ants frequenting the area were of a large, reddish kind, probably a variety of *Formica fusca*. This was my second observation of this curious phenomenon, the bird in the other instance being a Red-eyed Towhee in Virginia. It was able to gather all the ants needed without leaving a certain spot. (See *Ark*, Apr., 1944, p. 298)."

The preceding note is taken from a letter from W. L. McAttee, dated May 30, 1954. It was followed by another dated June 4, replying to an inquiry and some ventured opinions of ours. This second letter is quoted in full:

"The Cardinal anting episode was at about 9 a.m., the day sunny, but the action was in the shade. My previous experience with the Towhee was towards sundown. Accumulate data, yet, but theorize? It seems reasonable that anting has an anti-vermin basis but how to prove it? Brown (*Auk*, Jan. 1953, p. 90) says that the Robin, Starling, and Crow 'apparently do not eat ants.' However, all do eat them; in fact, practically all birds that take any animal food at all, eat ants.

"I decided to check over the *Auk* (there probably are records in some of the other journals) and give the results on the enclosed sheets.

"Records in the wild are what are wanted, so I skip all of captive or 'experimental' birds.

"It seems to be time to restrict the term 'anting' to the use of ants and let the cigarette stubs, etc., be treated under some other head.

"On the other hand, I can think of no activity more deserving the name 'anting' than taking a dust bath in an ant hill. This applies to Crow and Wild Turkey. The last named is the only non-passerine bird on the list. One would expect all the gallinaceous birds—such notable dusters—to be anters. Stoddard, in *The Bob-white Quail*, says nothing about use of ant hills, but N. Y. Grouse report says 'Ant hills are very often selected as sites for dust baths.' (Darrow, Robert W., in *The Ruffed Grouse. General Habits*. New York State Conservation Dept. 1947).

The *Auk* references follow: (To conserve space we have combined the two lists furnished us)

<i>Species</i>	<i>Author and Issue</i>
Wild Turkey.	Allen, F. H., July, 1946; McAtee, W. L., Jan. 1947.
Blue Jay.	McAtee, W. L., Jan. 1938.
American Crow.	McAtee, W. L., Jan. 1938; Groskin, H., April. 1950.
Catbird.	Brackbill, H., Jan. 1948; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950; Brown, W. H., Jan. 1953.
American Robin.	Nichols, C. K., Jan. 1943; Van Tyne, J., Jan. 1943; Davis, M., Apr. 1944; Brackbill, H., Jan. 1948; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Wood Thrush.	Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Starling.	McAtee, Jan. 1938; Brackbill, H., Jan. 1948; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Blue-winged Warbler.	McAtee, W. L., Jan. 1938; Dater, E. E., Jan. 1953.
House Sparrow.	Davis, M., Oct. 1945; Mayr, E., Oct. 1948.
Common Grackle.	Brackbill, H., Jan. 1948; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Common Cowbird.	Nice, M. M., Apr. 1945; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Scarlet Tanager.	Groskin, H., Jan. 1943; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Summer Tanager.	Harris, Ruth, Jan. 1941.
Cardinal.	Snyder, L. L., July 1941.
Red-eyed Towhee.	Van Tyne, J., Jan. 1943; McAtee, W. L., Apr. 1944; Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.
Song Sparrow.	Groskin, H., Apr. 1950.

*Chapel Hill, N. C., June 4, 1954.*

**A Winter Visitor at Wilmington, N. C.**—January 13, 1954, was a cloudy, rainy and cold day. I noticed a bird plummet to the ground but before I could observe it closely, it had flown away. In about fifteen minutes, the same thing happened and I became curious and started to investigate. I picked up my field glasses and went upstairs to see, if by chance, the bird was in the pecan tree which hangs over the side of the house.

I saw five Red-winged Black-birds and one *odd* bird. This bird was olive yellow above. Olive rump and tail with a tinge of orange in the tail which showed only in flight. It had a wash of orange on the breast. The head a shade darker than the back. It had wing-bars and a dark pointed bill. No eye ring or eye line. It was about an inch shorter and more slender than the Red-winged Black-birds. The bird was picking at the hulls left hanging on the pecan tree. Evidently, there were small insects on these hulls and when a piece would break off and drop the bird followed it to the ground.

Fortunately, this occurred near my most active feeding tray. I added grapes to the usual bird food of mixed grain, bread crumbs, sunflower seeds and grits mixed with bacon drippings. The bird started feeding about 11 o'clock and kept at it until about three in the afternoon. It fed at fifteen to twenty minute intervals. It found the grapes the second day after they were placed on the tray. It ate only the pulp and consumed ten to twelve a day. The Cardinals ate the seeds. When the weather was freezing cold it fed on the cooked grits mixed with bacon drippings. As the weather became



Founded March 6, 1937

Incorporated August 8, 1949

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

## OFFICERS FOR 1954-1955

*President:* Miss May Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Vice-Presidents:* Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.; Fred May, Lenoir, N. C.; Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.

*Secretary:* Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.

*Treasurer:* Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editors and the following four elected Members-at-large: Rhett Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. Christine Wilton, Greenville, N. C. and Leon Ballance, Lake Landing, N. C.

# THE CHAT

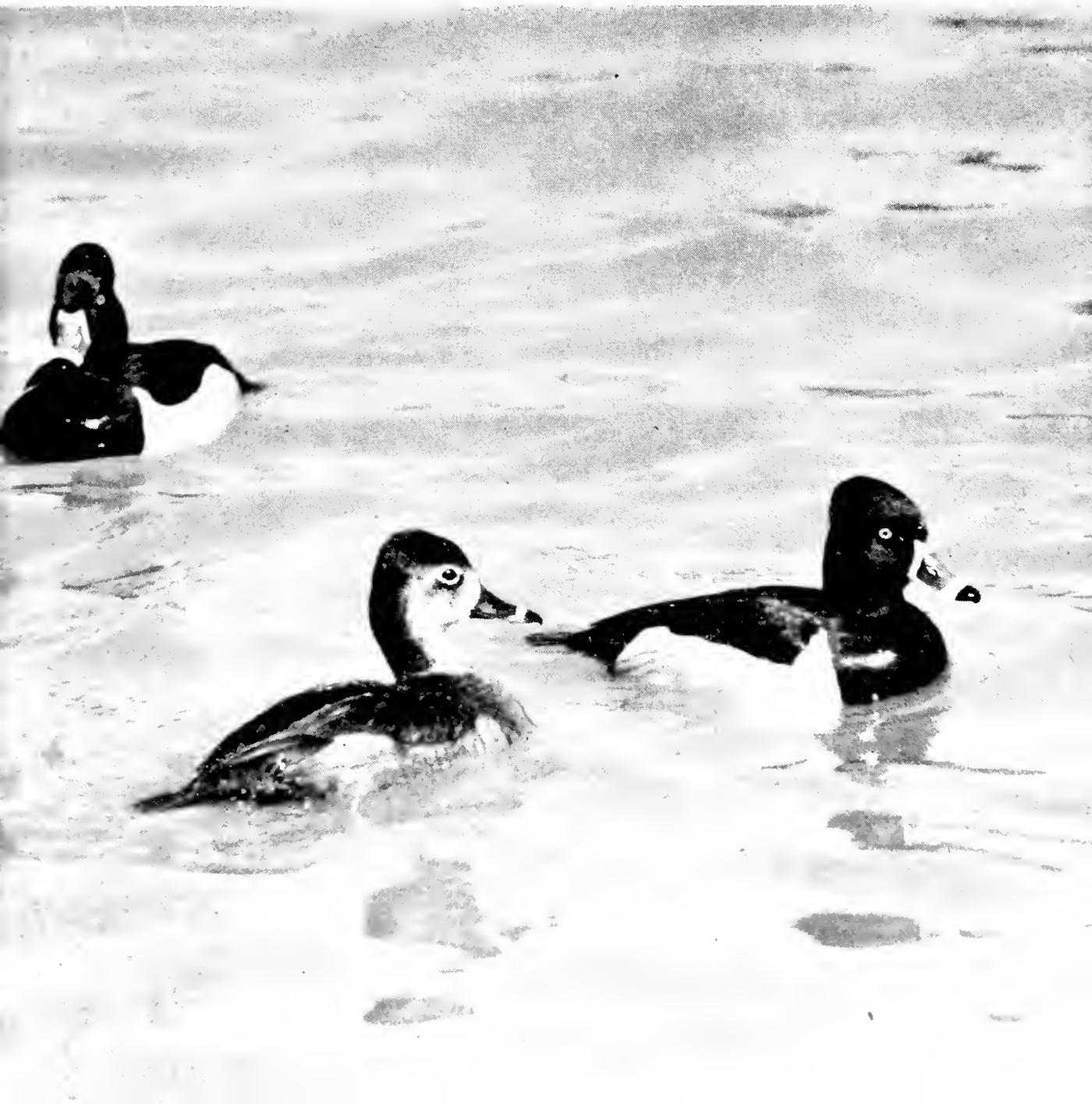
*Bulletin of*



Volume 18

DECEMBER, 1954

Number 4



Published by The Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Devoted to the publication of scientific and popular information on the birds and other wildlife of the Carolinas.

*Editor:* Kay Curtis Sisson, 1430 Wellington Drive, Columbia 4, S. C.

*Co-editor:* Annie Rivers Faver, Eastover, S. C.

*Associate Editors:* B. R. Chamberlain, Ernest Cutts, Harry Davis, Jack Dermid, James Mattocks, T. L. Quay, Thomas W. Simpson, Douglas Wade.

*Distribution Office:* N. C. State Museum, Box 2281, Raleigh, N. C.

*The Chat* is published quarterly in March, June, September, and December as the official bulletin of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Entered as second-class matter on March 14, 1952, at the Post Office at Raleigh, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription price to non-members: \$1.00 per volume. Single copies: 30 cents. Correspondence about changes of address and back numbers should be sent to Mr. Harry Davis, N. C. State Museum, Raleigh, N. C. *Please notify the Distribution Office immediately of change of address.* Subscriptions should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., and sent to the Treasurer.

## CONTENTS

The President's Page .....	85
Thumbnail Sketch—W. L. McAtee. <i>Thomas L. Quay</i> .....	86
Carolina Bird Names—Cont'd. <i>W. L. McAtee</i> .....	87
Editorial .....	95
Duck Migration Study in the Greenville, S. C. Area. <i>James B. Shuler, Jr.</i> .....	96
Backyard Birding. <i>Annie Rivers Faver</i> , Editor .....	98
General Field Notes. <i>B. R. Chamberlain</i> , Editor .....	102
A Cattle Egret (seen in S. C.). Editor .....	102
Florida Red-tailed Hawk Collected at Wilmington, N. C. <i>John B. Funderburg</i> .....	102
Mourning Dove: Nesting Data. <i>Ernest Cutts</i> .....	103
Horned Lark Breeding at Greenville, S. C. <i>James B. Shuler, Jr.</i> .....	103
Brown Thrasher Anting. Editor .....	103
Do Robins Get Drunk? <i>Ernest Cutts</i> .....	103
Disaster in Migration. Editor .....	104
Lark Sparrow at Greensboro, N. C. <i>George A. Smith</i> .....	Inside Back Cover
Briefs for the Files. Editor .....	Inside Back Cover

**Cover Photograph**—Ring-necked Ducks, two males and a female, common visitor to farm ponds in winter in the Carolinas. Photographed by Jack Dermid, Wildlife Resources Commission, Raleigh, N. C.



## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Corrections: (*The Chat*, Sept., 1954) All names under the Louisiana Heron (p. 64) from

The Fall field trip of the Carolina Bird Club at Blowing Rock, N. C., in September was a most enjoyable affair, even though birds were not too plentiful and the Broad-winged Hawk migration was a disappointment. However, good weather, fine scenery, cordial hospitality, comfortable accommodations and a well planned program and good fellowship made up for the shortage in other things.

At this time I would like to commend the Lenoir Audubon Club for its recent generous contribution to the Endowment Fund. This club has the honour of being the first to make such a gift and it would be an excellent idea if other clubs and individuals would follow this lead. The income from this fund will be used for the operation and expansion of CBC's conservation program.

Bill Joyner, regional leader, is to be congratulated for the fine way in which he is organizing his area. Field trips have been held at Henderson and Mattamuskeet, with others in the planning. Good work. Bill tells me he is receiving excellent cooperation from everyone in his region. Other regional leaders are getting started in their sections. These reports are very gratifying and such fine work should enlarge our conservation program which in turn will increase membership in CBC.

The idea of a summer camp in the Carolinas for CBC members has come up several times in the past summer. Some investigations have been made and others will be followed through and the findings reported to you. Will all members be on the lookout for a suitable location for a camp and advise me? Maybe we can make this dream a reality.

Sympathy is extended to the Sissons for the loss of their new beach house on Pawley's, and to all others who suffered from "Carol", "Edna" or "Hazel".

All local clubs and members of CBC be sure to take part in the Christmas Count this year. Dates for the count are on the editorial page (Page 95) of this issue. Compilers follow the rules carefully and do not forget to send a copy of your report to B. R. Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C., for *The Chat*. Let's have the largest count this year we've ever had!

I would like to see a bigger turnout of CBC members for the mid-winter field trip the weekend of January 22, 1955 at Summerton, S. C. CBC field trips are very rewarding. Everybody come who possibly can.

—MAY W. PUETT

## W. L. McATEE



W. L. McAtee, the author of "Carolina Bird Names", is one of the foremost ornithologists and biologists in the United States today. For the entire first half of this century he was a principal biologist for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. During this time he has published nearly 1,000 different scientific papers. His main contributions have been in the food habits of birds. This interest, however, has carried him throughout the plant and animal kingdoms in unending search for new facts and explanations.

In addition to his unusually extensive written works, he has a very large and important number of papers as yet unpublished. These manuscripts, along with the original notes and records of his pub-

lished accounts, are now on deposit in the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. This thoughtful means of permanent record will provide research workers with access to much valuable basic data for long years to come.

Mr. McAtee has written extensively, also, in the related fields of folklore and nature-lore. His collection of local, folk names of Carolina birds falls in this category. The editors of *The Chat* feel particularly proud in publishing this unique series of papers. "Carolina Bird Names" will be of permanent value and interest to ornithologists, naturalists, historians, and people in general.

Dr. McAtee retired in 1950 and came to live in Chapel Hill, N. C. Retirement meant the beginning of a whole new set of investigations and writings, so that today the words are flowing from his pen in increasing volume and undiminished brilliance. It is deeply inspiring to visit this indefatigable naturalist in his study at 3 Davie Circle, Chapel Hill, and realize directly the long sweep of American biology he represents.

The Carolina Bird Club, in the annual meeting at High Point, N. C., on March 20, 1954, elected Waldo Lee McAtee as its first and only Honorary Member For Life, in recognition of his scientific eminence and in appreciation of his interest in CBC.—*T. L. Quay, Raleigh, N. C. November 1, 1954.*

## CAROLINA BIRD NAMES—Cont'd

W. L. MCATEE

**AMERICAN BRANT.** **Black brant**(N). The head, neck (chiefly), and breast are black.

**SNOW GOOSE.** **White brant, white goose**(N).

**MALLARD.** **Black duck**(N). Reason for this name not apparent. **Duckinmallard**(N). This is the same as "duck and mallard", meaning the female and male, a form tracing back to Willughby-Ray, 1678. The term lived until fairly recently as attested by manuscript notes of Gurdon Trumbull(c. 1890), recording it for Orange County, and by H. H. Brimley(Forest and Stream 1911) for Bladen County, North Carolina. **English duck**(N,S). This name meant a superior kind of duck; it is a species highly prized by gunners. **Gray duck, gray mallard**(Rather general). **Greenhead**(Universal). The head of the male is green. **Green-head mallard**(N). Same note. **Mallard**(Universal).

**BLACK DUCK.** **Black duck**(General). It is chiefly blackish-brown with the feathers paler edged; but at a distance, or against the light, black seems the proper word. **Black English duck**(S). See preceding note and that on "English duck" under mallard. **Black mallard**(General). **English duck**(N). See note on this term under mallard. **Mallard**(N). It is closely related to the mallard but distinct under all circumstances and should not be given the same names. **River duck**(S). **Skiddler**(S). Meaning unknown. **Winter black duck**(N). **Winter duck**(N).

**GADWALL.** **Creek duck**(N). From its preference for small waters. **Gray duck**(General). **Gray widgeon**(N,S). Although varicolored in detail, the general color of the male is slaty-gray; "widgeon" is a term widely applied to medium-sized to small ducks. **Marsh duck**(N).

**AMERICAN PINTAIL.** **Gray duck**(in rather general use, sometimes for only the female). This name is given to various ducks not well known to the gunners. **Neck-twister**(N). The bird has a long neck and "twists" it freely, especially when circling overhead and inspecting a stand of decoys. **Pintail**(General). In allusion to the long pointed tail of the male. **Sprig, sprigtail**(General). See preceding note. **Sprig-tailed widgeon**(S). Same note; "widgeon" as a medium-sized duck. **Spring-tailed widgeon**(N). Corruption of the preceding name. **Switch-tailed widgeon**(Carolina, Elliott, 1850). See note on pintail. **Widgeon**(S). A name widely applied to medium-sized to small ducks.

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL.** **Green-wing, green-wing teal**(General). Only the speculum of the wing is green. **Red-head teal**(N). The head of the male is largely chestnut. **Winter teal**(N).

**BLUE-WINGED TEAL.** **Blue-wing, blue-wing teal**(General). As in the "green-winged" species, the speculum is green; most of the remainder of the exposed wing is light-blue in both sexes, a marking which, with proper light, shows well in both sitting and flying birds. **Fall teal**(N). It migrates southward earlier than the green-winged, or "winter", teal.

**EUROPEAN WIDGEON.** **Bastard redhead**(N). Considering a cross between the redhead and the baldpate. **Bastard widgeon**(N). As a supposed hybrid of the redhead and the American widgeon, or baldpate. **German baldpate**(N). To differentiate it from the American baldpate; is German used as a substitute for European? or merely as a distinguishing adjective? **Red-head widgeon, red-headed widgeon**(N). The sides of the head of the male are chestnut-red (the neck and breast lighter) and the whole head, neck, and breast of the female are rusty-red. The head of American widgeon of either sex shows no red.

**AMERICAN WIDGEON.** **Bald-crown**(N,S). The forehead and crown of the male are white. **Baldface**(Carolina, Lawson, 1709). See preceding note. **Bald-faced widgeon**(N). **Baldpate**(General). **Baldpate Widgeon**(N). **White-face**(Carolina, Lawson, 1709). **Widgeon**(General).

**WOOD DUCK.** **Acorn duck**(S). It feeds on acorns. **Acorn whistler**(S). See preceding note; the male utters a shrill whistle. **Squealer**(S). This

refers to the whistling note, "oo-eek, oo-eek". **Summer duck**(General). As remaining to breed. **Summer whistler**(S). See notes on names 2 and 3. **Swamp guinea**(S). In allusion to its habitat and to the spotting of its plumage. **Wood duck**(General). From living in swampy woods and nesting in tree holes.

**REDHEAD**. **Raft duck**(N). From gathering on the water in dense flocks. **Redhead**(General). The head of the male is reddish-chestnut. **Red-headed raft-duck**(N,S). See preceding notes.

**CANVASBACK**. **Bullneck**(N,S). Apparently this means thick neck, but the species is not especially distinguished in that respect. See note on this term further on under ruddy duck. **Canvasback**(General). Most of the upper parts in the male are white with fine, wavy cross-lines of dusky, in effect suggesting the fabric canvas. **Raft duck**(N). From gathering on the water in dense flocks. **Red-headed bullneck**(N). The head and neck of the male are dark reddish-chestnut; see note on bullneck.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**. **Corn-peg**(N). From the shape of the bill. **Fish-duck**, **fisherman**, **fisherman duck**, **fishing duck**(N). One that captures fishes. **Hairy-crown**(N), **Hairy-crown fish duck**(N), **Hairy-head**(S). Names of general application to the mergansers, in allusion to their crests. **Nine-gallon**(N). In reference to its strongly flavored flesh. "One old fisherman duck will make nine gallons of soup." **Salt-water pheasant**(N). "Pheasant" alludes to the striking coloration of the male. **Sawbill**. The bill has prominent serrations. **Shadpole**(S). Corruption of shag pole (or poll), applied to mergansers in allusion to the crest. **Sheldrake**. Sheld, meaning pied, refers to the striking coloration of the male.

**TURKEY VULTURE**. **Buzzard**(General). From resemblance on the wing to the soaring hawks, known as buzzards in England. **Buzzut**(S). Gullah corruption of buzzard. **Carrion-crow**(N,S). "Crow" from its black color; "carrion" from its food. **Charleston eagle** (S). "Eagle" facetious. **North Carolina buzzard**(N). The black vulture is called "South Carolina buzzard". **Rab'n**(S). Gullah corruption of raven; latter term from its color and scavenging habit. **Red-headed turkey buzzard**(S). The naked skin of the head and upper neck is livid crimson.

**BLACK VULTURE**. **Black buzzard**, **black-headed buzzard**, **buzzard**. Names in general use. **Buzzut**(S). Gullah corruption of buzzard. **Carrion crow**. "Crow" from its black color; "carrion" from its food. **Charleston eagle**(S). "Eagle", facetious. **Charleston short-winged buzzard**(S). **Con crow**(S). Corruption of carrion crow, which see. **Rab'n**(S). Gullah corruption of raven; latter term from its color and scavenging habit. **Short-tailed buzzard**(S). **Short-wing buzzard**(S). **South Carolina buzzard**(N,S). The turkey vulture is called "North Carolina buzzard".

**SWALLOW-TAILED KITE**. **Club boy**(S). Can "boy" trace to Pennsylvania German *Woi* (High German *Weihe* = kite? [the Superintendent of the Club was named Beckman]; "club" indicates that the bird was frequently seen on the property of the Santee Club. **Fork-tailed hawk**(S). The tail is conspicuously forked. **Sky hawk**(S). From being at home in the sky. **Snake hawk**(N, recorded by Catesby, 1731). It preys upon snakes.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK**. **Bird hawk**(N). As preying chiefly upon birds. **Blue darter**, **blue-tailed darter**(N,S). The adult male is dark, bluish-gray above; "darter" from its pouncing mode of attack upon its prey. **Blue-tailed hawk**(N). The tail in the adult male is dark, bluish-gray, with four or five blackish cross-bars. **Bullet hawk**(S). From the speed of its attack. **Little blue darter**(S). See note on blue darter. **Pigeon hawk**. This name, applied to several hawks, traces back to the time of the wild, or passenger, pigeon, which they followed and upon which they preyed. **Sharpstriker**(N). From its pouncing mode of attack. **Sparrow hawk**(N). From its preying on small birds. A fitting name for this species, which is a counterpart of the European sparrow hawk; the little falcon, so commonly called "sparrow hawk" in this country, by no means so well deserves the name. **Swift hawk**(S).

**COOPER'S HAWK**. **Big blue darter**(S). The adult male is dark blu-

ish-gray above; "darter" from its pouncing mode of attack upon its prey. **Blue darter**, **blue-tailed darter**(N), **blue-tailed hawk**(N,S). See preceding note. **Blue-tailed hen hawk**,(N). Blue for the reason given; hen hawk, as preying upon poultry. **Bullet hawk**(S). From the speed of its attack. **Chicken hawk**, **hen hawk**. As preying upon poultry. **Pigeon hawk**(N). This name, applied to several hawks, traces back to the time of the wild, or passenger, pigeon, which they followed and upon which they preyed. **Sparrow hawk**(N). As preying upon small birds. **Swift hawk**(S).

**RED-TAILED HAWK**. **Chicken hawk**(General). The Red-tail preys upon poultry but not to the extent popularly supposed. Stomach analyses indicated that about one meal in twelve included chicken. **Duck hawk**(S). Remains of wild ducks were found in only 4 of 754 stomachs. **Hen hawk**(General). See note on chicken hawk. **Mountain hawk**(N). **Rabbit hawk**(S). Remains of rabbits were found in 64 of 754 stomachs. **Red-tail**(Rather general). The tail of adults is chestnut above and shows that color predominantly when light shines through. **Squirrel hawk**(S). Remains of squirrels were found in 80 of 754 stomachs.

**RED-SHOULDERED HAWK**. **Chicken hawk**, **hen hawk**(General). Only 8 of 391 birds examined had preyed upon chickens. **Rabbit hawk**(S). Rabbit remains were found in 4 of 391 stomachs.

**BALD EAGLE**. **American eagle**(N,S). As the National Emblem. **Bald eagle**(Rather general). The head in adults is white, but not bald. **Black eagle**(N). For birds in immature plumage, which is grayish-brown to blackish, often with white patches. **Gray-eagle**(Rather general). See preceding note. **White headed eagle**(Rather general).

**MARSH HAWK**. **Blue hawk**(S). The adult male is light bluish-gray above. **Chicken hawk**(N,S). Supposed to prey upon poultry, which, however, it does not do to any serious extent. **Georgia boy**(S). I offer only queries here: can "boy" trace to Pennsylvania German *Woi* (High German, *Weihe*=kite)? Or is it merely a familiar or "pet" name? **Goshawk**(N). This can hardly be a transfer from the northern goshawk scarcely known in the Carolinas; and in its original meaning of goose hawk would be a complete misnomer for the marsh hawk. **Hen hawk**(S). See note on chicken hawk. **Marsh hawk**. From its quartering over marsh and other grassland in search of prey; and from nesting there. **Mouse hawk**. A good name; it is a great mouser. **Old-field driver**(N), **old-field hawk**(S). As quartering or "driving" old fields in search of prey. **Peter ripper**(N). As a harrier of blue peters or Coots. **Rabbit hawk**(N,S). Rabbits are large, hence unusual, prey for this species. **Ringtail**(Carolina, Lawson, 1714, in British use for their subspecies back to Turner, 1544). The upper tail coverts are white. **Ring-tailed hawk**(N). See preceding note. **Sparrow hawk**(N). As preying upon small birds. **Swamp hawk**(S). See note on marsh hawk; dialectically, marshes are often called swamps.

**OSPREY**. **Diving hawk**(S). In plunging for its fishy prey, it may entirely (though briefly) disappear beneath the water. **Fish eagle**(Rather general). The bird preys almost exclusively upon fishes, and is eagle-like in appearance. **Fish hawk**(General). See preceding note. **Fishing hawk**(N.; early use Catesby 1731). **Lake hawk**(S). **Little eagle**(S). It resembles an eagle. **Osprey**(General).

**PEREGRINE FALCON**. **Duck hawk**(Rather general). Remains of wild ducks were found in 9 of 57 stomachs examined. **Pigeon hawk**(N). This name for hawks usually goes back to the time of the passenger pigeon, the large flocks of which attracted followers of several species of hawks; in modern times, the peregrine frequenting cliff-like high buildings in cities preys chiefly on feral blue-rock pigeons. **Sharp-wing hawk**(N). A good descriptive name; all of the falcons have more pointed wings than our other hawks. **Sparrow eagle**(S). Probably in allusion to its small size as an "eagle"; however, it includes sparrows among its chiefly avian prey. **Squirrel hawk**(S). No mammals were found in 57 stomachs examined.

**PIGEON HAWK**. **Blue darter**(S). The males are bluish-gray to slaty above; they catch their prey by chasing, rather than by darting, however.

**Blue skimmer(S).** See preceding note; "skimmer" probably refers to its swift flight, as it is not a soarer. **Sparr' hawk(N).** That is sparrow hawk; a justifiable name for this species which preys freely upon sparrows and other small birds.

**SPARROW HAWK. Brownie(N).** From its prevailing cinnamon-rufous coloration. **Chicken hawk(N).** A misnomer; in 703 stomachs, no trace of poultry was found; this species is too small to prey upon chickens, except the peepies, and apparently it seldom does that. **Sparr' hawk(N).** Sparrows are eaten though not extensively so; a better name, based on food habits, would be grasshopper hawk. **Sparrow hawk(General).** See preceding note.

**RUFFED GROUSE. Drummer(S).** From the sound made with the wings by courting males. **Pheasant(N,S).** Persisting from early times when colonists from England gave this name to the larger of the two most common game birds, the other being the Partridge or Bobwhite; both names being transfers from species of similar relative sizes, with which they were familiar in the old country.

**BOBWHITE. Bird(General in the Southeast).** In the common expression: bird-hunting. **Bobwhite(Rather general).** From a common call. **Partridge(Formerly universal in the Southeast).** See note on pheasant under the preceding species. **Small partridge(S).** This would be in a locality where the Ruffed Grouse was regarded as the large partridge. **Squealer(N).** Belated young of the year, from their calls.

**WILD TURKEY. Gobbler(General).** The adult male. **Mountain turkey(N).** **Peep(S).** The downy young. **Tuckrey(S).** Gullah pronunciation of turkey. **Turkey, wild turkey(General).** Sonic, a common call sounding like, "turk, turk, turk".

**KING RAIL. Double rail(N).** From its large size compared to the Sora (*the* rail). **Fresh-water marsh-hen(S).** As a sizable and cackling, thus hen-like, bird of fresh marshes. **Indian pullet(S).** As a pullet-sized bird that might be considered among poultry of the Indians. **King rail(Rather general).** From its large size and bright coloration. **Marsh chicken(N).** As a sizable and cackling, thus chicken-like, bird of the marshes. **Marsh hen(Rather general).** See preceding note. **Sage hen, sedge hen(N).** See "hen" notes preceding; and add of the sedge, dialectically called "sage".

**CLAPPER RAIL. Big marsh-hen(N).** See note on marsh chicken above. This species and the King Rail are larger than the other rails. **Clapper rail(N).** From a common cry, a repeated "cac, cac ...". **Marsh hen(N,S).** See note on marsh chicken under the preceding species. **Merl hen(S).** perhaps marl hen; merl being used in the sense of mud; see next entry. **Mud hen(S).** A sizable and cackling, thus hen-like, bird which inhabits muddy surroundings. **Sage hen(N).** See note on the same name for the King Rail.

**VIRGINIA RAIL. Coot(S).** Application unknown. **Little Marsh hen(N).** A smaller "edition" of the King Rail, marsh hen, or marsh chicken; see note on latter term under that species above. **Mammy Coot(S).** Perhaps as a somewhat larger relative of the Sora, one of several species called coots. **Single rail(N).** A rail of normal size, in contrast to the larger King or Double Rail. **Ziek(N).** Apparently sonic, that is in imitation of one of the numerous notes of this bird.

**SORA RAIL. Coot(N,S).** Application unknown. **Marsh hen(S).** As a cackling bird of the marshes. **Ortolan(N,S).** As an edible species; this name of a gastronomically noted European bunting has been transferred to numerous species rated as excellent table birds. **Sora(General).** Thought to be derived from an Indian name of the bird.

**PURPLE GALLINULE. Blue Peter: "Peter"** as a bird that can apparently walk on water (it is supported by the leaves of plants on or near the surface); the head, neck, and underparts are purplish blue. **Mammy Coot(S).** As a large species of the coot group, here meaning the rails, though the bird is a nearer relative of the true coot. **Marsh hen(S).** The calls are hen-like and it inhabits marshes. **Moonshine(S).** The olive-green upper surface, with bluish reflections, may appear moon-lit. **Pond fowl(S).** A poultry-like bird of ponds.

**COMMON GALLINULE.** **Bald coot:** "Bald" refers to the horny frontal shield; the bird is a near ally of the American Coot. **Blue Peter** (N,S). See note on this term under the next species. **Marsh Peter** (N). A "Peter", see note on Blue Peter below, that lives in marshes. **Red-billed mud hen** (N). See note on mud hen under the next species; the bill except tip and the contiguous frontal plaque are sealing-wax red. **Sedge Peter** (N). A "Peter", see note on Blue Peter below, that lives among sedges.

**AMERICAN COOT.** **Baldface** (N). In allusion to the white frontal plaque. **Blue Peter** (N,S). Treading on the floating leaves of aquatic plants, it appears to walk, and spattering along in its take-off, to run, on the water; hence Peter. General color bluish-slaty. **Blue Peter duck** (N). See preceding note; duck, as a sizable water fowl. **Coot.** **Crow-bill** (S). **Crow-duck** (N). The bird has the habits but not the structure of a duck, contrasting notably in the shape of the bill. **Fud** (S). This may be a survival of a Scottish dialect term, meaning tail or scut of a rabbit, this bird also having the underside of its small tail white. **Marsh coot** (N). **Marsh hen** (S). As a sizable bird inhabiting marshes. Mud hen as a sizable bird of muddy places. **Peter** (N). See note on blue Peter. **Water hen** (N). A sizable bird usually seen on water. **Whiteface** (N). In allusion to the white frontal plaque.

**AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.** **Clam bird** (N,S). As feeding upon clams. **Clam-cracker** (S). As opening clams. **Oyster-bird** (N,S). From feeding on oysters. **Oyster-cracker** (N). From opening oysters. **Oyster Curlew** (S). As feeding upon oysters; any large shore bird may be called a curlew. **Quit** (N). From the note it utters when flushed. **Red knife-bill** (S). The beak is orange-red, and is laterally flattened and truncated, so as to be roughly comparable with a knife. **Twit** (N). See note on quit.

**RINGED PLOVER.** **Little ringneck** (N). The neck has a broad white collar bordered below by a narrow black ring; "little" in contrast to the similarly marked but larger Wilson's Plover. **Peep** (N). All small shore birds are called peeps; probably a sonic term. **Ringneck** (General). See second preceding note. **Ring-necked plover** (S). Same reference. **Ring-neck sand chicken** (S). Same reference for first part of name; sand chicken as a somewhat chick-like bird that frequents sandy beaches.

**PIPING PLOVER.** **Peabow** (N). From its usual note. **Ringneck** (N). The white ring is not so distinct as in the preceding species because of the pale grayish-brown tone of adjacent plumage; but the black ring is distinct, especially in front, though tending to be narrower behind.

**THICK-BILLED PLOVER.** **Ringneck** (N,S). The pattern of a white ring, broader in front narrowed behind and bordered below by a grayish-brown band, black in front, entitles this species to its share in the group name. **Stuttering bird, stuttering plover** (S). From its notes, but the terms do not seem very descriptive.

**KILLDEER.** **Bad-weather bird** (N). Its persistent calling believed to presage bad weather. **Cheweeka** (S). By confusion with the jacksnipe (which see)? **Cold-weather bird** (N). Probably from the same reason given in the first note. **Killdeer** (Universal). In imitation of its common cry **Tilldee** (S). Another version of the cry.

**GOLDEN PLOVER.** **Golden plover** (General). The back is speckled with yellow. **Maggot-eater** (N). From picking over beach debris which may contain fly larvae.

**BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.** **Beetle-head** (N). "Beetle" apparently means large. **Bighead** (N). **Bull-head** (S). This also means bighead. **Chuckle-head** (N). **Maggot-eater** (N). See same name under the preceding species. **Oxeye** (corruptly oxide, N). From the prominent eyes. **Pilot** (N). Thought to lead mixed flocks of shore birds. **Sent-for-nothin'** (N). The flight sometimes appears aimless.

**RUDDY TURNSTONE.** **Calico-back** (N). The back is particolored. **King-crab bird, king-crab eater** (N). From feeding on the eggs of that "crab" (*Limulus*). **Maggot-eater** (N). See note on same name for the second preceding species. **May bird** (S). Seen then in migration. **Ox-eye** (N). From the prominent eyes.



**AMERICAN WOODCOCK.** **Night-flit(N).** A bird that flies by night; from its crepuscular habits. **Night-partridge(N).** "Night" from its crepuscular habits; "partridge" in allusion to its brown color and explosive flushing, similar to those of the Partridge or Bobwhite. **Night-peck, peck, peck(N).** "Night" as before; the other terms seem to refer to the "peent" or courtship call. **Snipe(N,S).** In early days this was the general name of the bird, which only in recent times became widely known as Woodcock. **Woodchuck(S).** Called Woodcock, it may as well be dubbed woodchuck as is also the Pileated Woodpecker; one name seems to suggest the other. **Woodcock(General).** A jaunty bird of the woodland.

**COMMON SNIPE.** **Chuweeka(S).** Indian name? English snipe (General east of the Mississippi River). In such connections, the term "English" means the genuine or best. **Jacksnipe(Universal).** The small snipe, that is contrasted with the Woodcock. See above. **Marsh snipe(N).** **Snipe(Now universal).**

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW.** **Crooked-billed curlew(N,S).** All of the true curlews have curved or "crooked" bills. **Curved-bill(N).** **Leather bird(N).** Its flesh being tough. **Roach-bill(N).** The bill has an arch or roach. **Sickle-bill, sicklebill curlew(General).** The bill has a pronounced curve. **Spanish curlew(S).** "Spanish" to indicate a strongly recognizable kind.

**HUDSONIAN CURLEW.** **Crooked-billed curlew(N,S).** See above. **Jack Curlew(General).** That is, small, in contrast to the longbilled or great, curlew. **Spanish curlew(S).** See note on same name under the preceding species. **Stone curlew(S).** A name probably borrowed from a natural history book; the true stone curlew does not occur in the United States.

**ESKIMO CURLEW.** **Crooked-billed curlew(N,S).** See note on this name under the second preceding species.

**UPLAND PLOVER.** **Flying colt(N).** From a note simulating the whinny of a colt. **Grass plover(S).** From its habitat. **Highland curlew(N).** From its habitat; in this case "curlew" may have an independent sonic origin, or it may illustrate the tendency to call all large shore birds curlews. **Plover(S).** Probably as being a "game" species. **Upland plover(Rather general).** **Wild mare(N).** From a note simulating the whinnying of a mare.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER.** **Dogtail(N).** Its tail is always "wagging". **Grayback(N).** **Maggot-eater(N,S).** This is nearly a synonym for shore birds on the Carolina coast; it seems to indicate that the birds pick over water-borne debris, where they may find fly larvae. **Peet-weet(General).** From its notes when flushed. **Sandpiper(N).** **Sea chicken(N,S).** This name applies to most shore birds, as chick-like species of the sea beach; the spotted sandpiper is seldom seen there. **Spotted sand-chicken(S).** Latter term has a meaning similar to that of the preceding entry; in adults the breast is spotted. **Teeter, teeter-tail(General).** From its bobbing movements. **Tip-up(Universal).** See preceding note. **Water Oriole ("Carolina").** From an early-season song, unusually full and varied for a shore bird.

**SOLITARY SANDPIPER.** **Diedapper(N).** A name meaning "dive-diver", usually applied to grebes; in this case it probably alludes to the bobbing movements of the bird. **Piper(N).** Short for sandpiper.

**WILLET.** **Cumbee billy(S).** The first term refers to the Combahee River; the second is sonic, that is, from a cry of the bird. **Fuss-box(S).** A vociferous being. **Hill-billy(S).** Sonic. **Stone curlew(S).** See note on this name under Hudsonian curlew, *ante*. **Willet(General).** **Sonic, Will-willet("Carolina").** Sonic.

**GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.** **Big yellow-leg(General).** **Larger yellowshanks(N).** **Tell-tale(Rather general).** Its loud cries inform all game of the presence of the hunter. **Wintershanks(N).** Contraction of winter yellowshanks; "winter" as present in colder weather than is the "summer" or Lesser Yellow-legs. **Winter yellowshank(N).** See preceding note. **Yellow-leg(General).** **Yellowshank(N).**

**LESSER YELLOW-LEGS.** **Little yellow-leg(General).** **Smaller yellowshanks(N).** **Summer yellowshank(N).** As being seen in milder weather



than is the "winter" or Greater Yellow-legs. **Yellow-leg**(General). **Yellowshanks**(N).

**KNOT. Beach robin**(N). From its habitat and the brownish-red color of the underparts in breeding plumage. **Fool bird**("Carolina"). Probably in allusion to misplaced confidence in man. **Gray plover**(N). In the fall plumage. **May bird**(S). From the season of its greatest abundance. **Plover**(N). As a game species. **Red-breasted robin, red-breasted snipe, sea robin**(N). See note on beach robin. **Robin snipe**(Rather general). Same note.

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Grass bird**(N). It likes to feed among short grasses in soppy places. **Grass snipe**(General). See preceding note; any shore bird may be called snipe. **Jack snipe**(General). As a small "snipe".

**WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. White-tailed sea-chicken**(N). The rump is white; sea-chicken, as a chick-like bird inhabiting the sea beach.

**LEAST SANDPIPER. Peep**(General). A word doubtless derived from the note of one or more of them that is applied to various small shore birds; as when used as a name for downy chicks, it no doubt has also the connotation of small stature. **Sea chicken**(N,S). As a chick-like bird inhabiting the sea beach. **Smallest sea-chicken**(N). See preceding note. **Sneedling**(N). From "sneede", a morsel, or something small.

**DUNLIN. Black-breasted snipe, blue-breasted snipe**(N). In breeding plumage there is a large oblong black patch on each side of the middle of the lower surface. **Sea chicken**(N). See note on this name under the preceding species. **Winter snipe**(N). Seen in that season; any shore bird may be called a snipe.

**DOWITCHER. Brown-back**(N). **Gray-back**(N). The back is variegated, more grayish in winter, and more brownish in summer, plumage. **Gray-backed snipe**(N). **Gray snipe**(Rather general). In winter plumage **Long-billed beach robin**(N). The bill is as long as in the jacksnipe, the underparts are pinkish-cinnamon in the spring plumage. **Long-billed snipe**(N). See preceding note. **Red-breasted snipe**(N). The underparts are pinkish cinnamon in the spring plumage. **Robin snipe**(General east of the Mississippi). See preceding note.

**STILT SANDPIPER. Sand chicken**(S). As a chick-like bird inhabiting sandy beaches.

**SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER. Peep**(N). See note on this term under least sandpiper, *supra*. **Sea chicken**(N). As a chick-like bird inhabiting sea beaches. **Sneeding**(N). See note on that term under Least Sandpiper.

**MARBLED GODWIT. Long-billed snipe**(N). **Square curlew**(N). The bill is nearly straight (slightly upcurved) in contrast to that of the true curlews, which is down-curved. **Straight-billed curlew**(N). See preceding note; any large shore bird may be called a curlew.

**HUDSONIAN GODWIT. Grayback**(N). In winter plumage; back grayish-brown. **Red-breasted snipe**(N). In breeding plumage; russet, barred with dusky and whitish, below.

**SANDERLING. Bay snipe**(N). **Beach sea-chicken**(N). A chick-like bird frequenting beaches. **Clam-chaser**(N). The bird pursues receding waves in the wash of which it captures small bivalves or "clams". **Sand snipe**(N). **Sea-chicken**(N). See third note above. **Sneedling**(N). From "sneede", a morsel, or small thing. **White sea-chicken**(N). In winter plumage the underparts are white and the upperparts pale gray to brownish-gray, the general effect being that of a very whitish bird. **Winter sea-snip**(N). As present on the beaches at that season.

**HERRING GULL. Sea gull**(General).

**RING-BILLED GULL. Sea gull**(General).

**LAUGHING GULL. Black-head, black-headed gull** (General). **Fool gull**(N). The young. **Summer gull**(Carolinas).

**COMMON TERN. Big striker**(Carolinas). Striker from its plunging into the water after prey. **Red-billed striker**(N). The bill is vermilion or coral-red basally. **Sea swallow**(General). From its graceful flight. **Striker**(N.) See note on big striker.

**LEAST TERN.** Little sea striker(S). See note on big striker above. **Little sea swallow(S)** See note on sea swallow above. **Little striker(Carolinas).**

**ROYAL TERN.** Big sea striker(S). See note on big striker under common tern. **Big sea swallow(S).** See note on sea swallow under common tern. **Big striker(N).** **Gannet striker(N).** Gannet probably alludes to its large size as well as to its plunging for prey, which is the significance of striker. **Red-billed striker(N).** Bill mostly coral- or orange-red. **Striker(N).**

**CASPIAN TERN.** Big gull(S). This is the largest of the terns, but hardly rates the description "big" among gulls. **Forked-tail striker(N).** The tail is forked but not so deeply as in most of the other terns. **Red-billed striker(N).** The bill is coral- or vermilion-red.

**BLACK SKIMMER.** Barking sea hawk(S). From its repeated "ow, ow, ow" call, its habitat, and its general appearance. **Cutwater(Carolina, Catesby, 1731).** The bird flies about with its prolonged and compressed lower mandible "cutting" the water. **Knife-bill(S).** The lower mandible is compressed like a knife blade. **Old wife(Carolinas, Lawson, 1714).** Perhaps from its vociferousness, deemed garrulity. **Razor-bill(N).** See note on knife-bill. **Seadog(S).** From its repeated "ow, ow, ow" call, suggesting barking. **Shearwater(N,S), shearwater gull(N).** See note on cutwater. **Skimmer(N).** The bird flies about with its prolonged lower mandible thrust into the water as if skimming. **Striker(N).** From confusion with the terns, commonly so-called from their plunging into the water for food—a habit this bird does not share.

**RAZOR-BILLED AUK.** Sea crow(N). It is about the size of a crow and the upper parts are slaty-black.

**DOVEKIE.** Canary duck(N). As a small water bird. **Sea dove(N).** The form is not unlike that of the common pigeon or dove.

**MOURNING DOVE.** Dove(General). **Dub(S).** "Dove" in the Gullah dialect. **Moaning dove(N).** Possibly a corruption of Mourning Dove, possibly not. To some ears the notes sound mournful; however, they are uttered by the bird at the height of its joy in living. **Mourning dove(S).** See preceding note. **Pigeon(N).** In a sense it is a pigeon as there is hardly any drawing of a line between pigeons and doves. **Turtle dove(General).** This has no reference to the animals known as turtles in the United States. It traces to the apparently sonic Latin term *turtur*, a name for the common European turtle-dove. As turtle from this source means dove, the name turtle-dove is a tautonym.

**PASSENGER PIGEON.** Pigeon, wild pigeon(General).

**GROUND DOVE.** Ground dove(S). As usually being seen on the ground. **Mourning dove(S).** The soft cooing of this bird is considered mournful by some; however, it is a courting performance. See note on this term under the second preceding species.

**CAROLINA PAROQUET.** Parrot, wild parrot(Both probably general).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.** Fool bird(S). Application unknown. **Rain crow(Universal).** The bird seems most vociferous before a rain; "crow" must be used merely for "bird", as the species is in no way crow-like.

Corrections: (*The Chat*, Sept., 1954) All names under the Louisiana Heron (p. 64) from Scoggin on, belong under Common Egret. (*The Chat*, Dec., 1954) Several of the names which should have appeared in this issue from American Brant through Red-breasted Merganser were included in the first installment. The final brochure to be printed in March, which will include three installments, will be corrected and all names will be in their proper AOU order.—Ed.

Reprints of *Carolina Bird Names* by W. L. McAtee will be available at cost, plus postage and mailing expenses: between 12¢ and 15¢ each for single copies and between 9¢ and 12¢ for large orders, according to the size of the total order to the printer. Send your orders in as soon as possible to T. L. Quay in Raleigh.—Ed.



## EDITORIAL

---

News, Reviews, Announcements

Authors, Members, Letters

Items of Interest

### 1954 CHRISTMAS COUNT

Official dates for this winter's count are Dec. 25, to Jan. 2, inclusive. No recent changes have been made in the rules for the count. They may be obtained from National Headquarters at 15¢ per copy.

Last winter Wilmington topped all areas in the Country with a list of 165 species. At Todd, N. C., high in the Appalachian Mountains, only 21 species were to be found. Both counts are important.

Reports intended for publication in *The Chat* should be sent to B. R. Chamberlain, *Matthews, N. C.*, by Jan. 10. Reports for Audubon Field Notes should go promptly to the National Audubon Society, 1130 Fifth Ave., New York 28, N. Y.

Last winter A. F. N., published 21 counts from the Carolinas. There were 231 closely packed pages in that issue. The high cost of such an enormous listing may force assessed fees from participants. Certainly some financial aid is necessary, and it should be sent along with the report. DO NOT send money intended for A. F. N., to *The Chat*.—B.R.C.

J. B. Shuler, Jr., chairman of papers for CBC, asks that all who have papers to submit for possible presentation at meetings, please send them to him at 43 Kirkwood Lane, Greenville, S. C.

Fred May of Lenoir, N. C. sent in the following news item: A male Sora Rail stopped over here yesterday when he hit a building and dropped into a window well. The rescue was made by Mrs. P. P. Yates and first aid was given by Dr. and Mrs. R. T. Greer. The visitor now is hospitalized at the Mays, on Beall Street, under the care of Mary May, R. N. He is a "First" for Lenoir Club members.

He is very active from shoulders up. His beak is vicious, but he is a bit paralyzed in wings and feet and legs. All of us hope he is going to make a full recovery, and will be on his way very soon. Omit flowers.

The Piedmont Bird Club will be glad to supply reprints of the article, *Birds of Guilford County, N. C.* to anyone who is interested. Single copy 10¢; 3 copies 25¢; 10 or more copies 5¢ each. Write to Charlotte Dawley, Woman's College, Greensboro, N. C.

In the footnote to Historical Developments of Sight Recognition by Ludlow Griscom (Sept. *Chat*) Mr. Eugene Eisenmann is mentioned as President of the LINNAEAN SOCIETY. Mr. Eisenmann writes that he no longer has the honour of this position, but that he was Editor of the *Linnaean Proceedings* at the time the above paper was given. However, he is not the Editor either now. Your editor's oversight.

From Carlita Nesslinger, Ithaca, N. Y.: "I have consistently derived a certain benefit and pleasure from reading *The Chat* and I am pleased to note that the most recent issues have improved steadily in the value and quality of their articles."

# DUCK MIGRATION STUDY IN THE GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA AREA

JAMES B. SHULER, JR.

The following paper is based largely on data extracted from an ornithological diary kept by E. S. Tillinghast of Greenville, S. C. The Tillinghast residence faces the Union Bleachery Reservoir, and Mr. Tillinghast has made the most of this opportunity to make long-term observations on ducks. The notes cover the period from late 1948 through 1952. I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Tillinghast for the contribution of these notes.

## *The Area:*

The Union Bleachery Reservoir on the outskirts of the city of Greenville, covers about ten acres. It is supplied by pumping from two streams—the Reedy River, and a small stream that abuts the reservoir. Since the water is used industrially, it is passed through filter beds. Algae in summer clog these filter beds and raise the pH of the water to about nine. For this reason it is treated in the hot months with copper sulphate. The resulting depression of plant life ranges from the microscopic algae to the larger water plants. The algae, having much the shorter life cycle, reestablish themselves yearly. The microscopic plants are permanently eliminated. Fish, however, appear little affected, and many are seen daily against the mesh filters at the intake point of the bleachery.

## *Observations:*

Table 1. Arrival and Departure Dates and Relative Abundance. (The Relative Abundance Number is calculated by multiplying the number of ducks by the number of days they remained on the reservoir).

SPECIES	ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE	R.A.
Mallard	Nov. 8 to Feb. 18	286
Black Duck		2
Gadwall	(27 in one flock, Mar. 23, '52)	37
Am. Pintail	Nov. 3 to Apr. 27	7
Green-winged Teal		1
Blue-winged Teal	Sept. 1-Oct. 23; Mar. 19-Apr. 23	382
Am. Widgeon	Oct. 24-28; Mar. 1-May 6	136
Shoveller	Mar. 4-May 2	25
Wood Duck		2
Redhead	Nov. 3 to Mar. 25	203
Ring-Neck Duck	Oct. 17 to May 7	7,809
Scaup	Oct. 17 to May 23	2,103
Common Golden-eye	Nov. 4 to Mar. 9	282
Bufflehead	Nov. 18 to Apr. 9	69
Old-squaw	(one bird)	
White-winged Scoter	(one bird)	
Ruddy Duck	Oct. 13 to May 6	419
Hooded Merganser	Nov. 8 to Apr. 5	63
Common (Am.) Merganser	(all in Jan.)	
Red-breasted Merganser	Nov. 14-27; Mar. 20-May 2	112
Other species on the reservoir:		
Common Loon	Oct. 20-29; Mar. 20-Apr. 2	17
Pied-billed Grebe	Aug. 21 to May 3	
Am. Coot	Oct. 12-Nov. 8; Mar. 13-May 3	47

Among the 22 species of ducks listed on the reservoir were two which seem far away enough, at least ecologically, from their normal range to be classed as accidentals. The "Coot" of the New England coast, the White-winged Scoter, was represented by one bird which appeared Mar. 12, 1950, and stayed for twelve days. This duck proved to be a better diver than the resident *Nyrocinac*. Its timed dives were found to average 50 seconds, substantially longer than the 30 second average of the Ring-necks and Scaups.

An Old-squaw paid a twelve day visit beginning Dec. 9, 1950. This bird seemed to be in poor health. Its plumage was worn and its tail streamers were abbreviated. It chose for its temporary domicile a small pond not more than an acre in size that abuts the Bleachery building. A log floating in the water served as its resting place, and it was often driven to take refuge there by two harassing grebes.

As the Horned Grebe has not been reported so far inland in South Carolina previously, it seems worthwhile to list its three occurrences at Union Bleachery: Nov. 20, 1948, one bird; Oct. 31, 1951, one bird; and Nov. 7 to Nov. 22, 1951, one bird. A fourth upstate record was made at Table Rock, Burke County, Jan. 24, 1954, when G. F. Townes and I watched one diving in company with a small flock of Ring-necks.

*Analysis and some conclusions:*

Despite the many observations, not all of the conclusions that follow are based upon adequate data. It will be interesting to see if other observers at comparable locations come to the same conclusions.

Regrouping the species above that were observed in spring and fall, but were not present in mid-winter, results in the following:

Table II.

SPECIES	TOTAL NUMBER		DAYS OBSERVED	
	FALL	SPRING	FALL	SPRING
Gadwall .....	5	32	1	3
Blue-winged Teal .....	192	166	12	35
Am. Widgeon .....	15	125	3	30
Shoveller .....	1	24	1	10
Red-breasted Merganser ..	24	88	3	14

*Union Bleachery  
Reservoir,  
Greenville, S. C.*



The Red-breasted Merganser, though a fish-eater, winters almost exclusively in salt water and is included in the table as it appears at Greenville only as a migrant.

The other ducks listed in Table II are predominantly vegetarian, and since the reservoir contains little vegetable matter, food can scarcely be a motive for the use of the pond by these ducks. The fact that winter records of them are entirely lacking, strengthens this conclusion and points up the thought that the pond is visited as a part of migratory activity.

Although migratory activity explains the seasonal grouping, an additional explanation is required for the greater number of spring records as compared with the fall records in the table.

Birds rest before attempting to navigate any considerable stretch of unfavorable territory. An example of this was reported in Griscom's *Modern Bird Watching* (1947), where vast numbers of fall migrants (passerine) were recorded on the islands in the marshes of Louisiana. In spring no such congestion was noted, the birds flying on to the more favorable woodlands of the mainland. Thus it is seen that these trans-gulf migrants had more than enough endurance and energy to make the flight. The reserve, a safety factor against unfavorable weather, if unused can be safely employed once the coastal islands and marshes are reached. Without this safety factor, the mildest squall line might spell disaster to a species.

In the case in point, the ducks, having crossed the mountains in fall, wing on coastward to the abandoned rice fields, river deltas, and marshes of their winter feeding grounds. In spring they hesitate and rest a while before rising to hurdle the Appalachians. On foggy days in late March and April, when flying conditions appear at their worst, the Teal, Widgeon, and Gadwall are most likely to stop and mix briefly with the divers.

#### *On the Mississippi Flyway?*

On several occasions Mr. Tillinghast was able to watch flocks of ducks coming in and leaving the reservoir. His observations indicated an eastward movement in fall and westward in spring. Kortright describes this link between the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways as actually an offshoot of the Mississippi branch. He lists Blue-winged Teals, Gadwalls, Shovellers and possibly some Ring-necks as the ducks using this migration highway. Of possible significance in considering this route as part of the Mississippi flyway is the rarity of the Black Duck on the Union Bleachery Reservoir. Though the commonest nesting species in the East and East-Central United States and Canada, it is absent from the western part of the continent.—JAMES B. SHULER, JR., *Greenville, S. C., Feb. 7, 1954.*

---

#### C. B. C. Mid-Winter Field Trip

The week ending January 22, has been selected for the mid-winter trip. The Santee National Wildlife Refuge is the site. The refuge is approximately 7 miles south of Summerton, S. C., on highways 15 and 301. There should be opportunity to study ducks and geese on both foot and car trips that are planned. Members will make their own reservations at any of the numerous motels close by. Headquarters will be established at The Windsor Motel, ½ mile south of Summerton. The King Cotton Motel is also recommended. Details will be sent out in a News Letter.



Not for many years has all natural food for birds and other wildlife been so scarce. The extremely hot, dry weather prevented the trees from bearing fruit, or at best produced only a few hard, dried up specimens in place of the abundance usually found throughout our southern swamps and woods. Here on our hillside in the central part of South Carolina, there are some berries on the large black gum trees, but they are being rapidly eaten now by the migratory tanagers, thrushes, and our local Brown Thrashers, Cardinals, Flickers, and Mockingbirds. Very soon, there will be none left for the Robins. There are no berries on the large dogwoods, and just a few on the lower branches of one large holly near the pond. The French mulberries did not even reach mature growth, so did not bloom. The Hermit Thrushes usually feed on these berries as long as any are on the bushes. Only the ligustrum and hedge bushes have a fair crop of berries, but they are very small, and may fall off before they ripen.

So this winter, all backyard birders should keep feeders well filled with a variety of foods, and an adequate water supply should be available as well, for what we provide may well mean the difference between life and starvation for our common birds. Please be accurate as to identifications and record all dates, as unusual weather conditions may bring a shift in bird population, and we might again have some western species in the Carolinas. The migration of warblers was early here, and the majority have already passed on, the peak having been the first week in October.

This department has received many letters and comments about birds this summer, most of them having to do with the effect of the weather on their nesting. At our home, we had no successful Cardinals' nests until the middle of the summer. However, the Red-bellied Woodpeckers had young at our window feeder from early spring until the last of September. Mrs. G. E. Charles wrote from Aynor, South Carolina, that she believed that a Mockingbird had had *four* broods in the neighborhood of her yard. Like me, she did not think of keeping a record of their broods until the very late young ones put in their appearance. The extreme heat destroyed many an egg of the hole-dwelling birds. They were either "cooked", or the insects or mites were so plentiful that many nests were abandoned.

In some sections, the common birds seemed to disappear. Actually, I guess they had left high, dry, situations for places nearer water, for we had many of all kinds around our spring and near the pond, when there seemed to be no birds anywhere else.

From Charleston, South Carolina, Mrs. Francis Barrington tells of the activities in her yard in the following:

I have nothing of great note to report to you, but I do have many a Red Letter Day over the occurrence of birds at our bath, many of which are rated as common residents or visitors in our locality. However, whenever they are "firsts" or "occasionals" in our yard I seem to get up as much enthusiasm over them as if they were really rare—the Water Thrush, for instance, that was in our garden and in and out of one bath or the other almost continuously for four days straight (Aug. 24, 25, 26, 27), usually prefacing his appearance with his imperative "chink, chink, chink". I have recorded him as a Northern Water Thrush, as the throat, as well as the sides and breast, was streaked.

But on September 23 and 24 I really had more of a right to my thrill inasmuch as the Cape May Warbler is considered by *South Carolina Bird Life* to be only a "fairly common transient" in our state, more common in the Piedmont in spring and more common on the coast in the fall. On both of these dates just given, the bird was at one bath or the other, or in one of our oaks—a favorite tree of this species. I have several previous records, both earlier and later than this year, but all for the fall. The greenish-yellow rump, the distinct side markings and the light patch back of the ear were all "right there". And the "high, thin seet, seet, seet, seet" (sometimes uttered three times, sometimes four) usually announced his presence.

Yesterday's (September 27) special moment was spent watching the Olive-backed Thrush at the bath, its light eye-ring standing out sharply in the soft light of the afternoon. This was a "first" for our yard when recorded last May 10th. At that time its "whit, whit" betrayed its presence. Yesterday it was silent.

I am often tempted to wish I had nothing else to do but sit by my window and watch our visitors, many of whom probably come and go without my knowledge!

---

### Fall Field Trip

The 1954 annual fall field trip of CBC was held on September 24-25 at Blowing Rock, N. C. Over a hundred ornithologists and bird watchers from North and South Carolina attended the meeting with visitors from Florida, Georgia, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Programs Friday and Saturday nights consisted of color slides lectures on birds, other wildlife and plant life on the Blue Ridge Parkway areas by Bill Lord, Parkway Naturalist, of Roanoke, Va.; Identification of ducks by Doug Wade, S. C. Wildlife Resources Dept. of Columbia, S. C. and scenes of Canada Geese at Gaddy's Pond, Ansonville, N. C. and Edisto Island, S. C. by Dr. W. K. Cuyler, Duke University, Durham, N. C.

Mrs. N. B. Beecher of Biltmore, N. C., representative of the National Audubon Society, discussed Junior Audubon Clubs in the schools of North and South Carolina, and Miss Lunette Barber of the N. C. Wildlife Commission, Raleigh, N. C., told of plans of cooperation between the Commission and CBC in preparation of educational literature for use in the public schools and general distribution.

Parkway Naturalist Lord and Ranger J. E. Hayes led field trips over large areas of the 3,600 acre Cone Memorial Park. Lookouts for the observation of migrating hawks were maintained under the direction of Tom Parks, Lenoir, N. C., chairman of the Hawk Study Committee of CBC, assisted by Dr. T. W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.

A check for one hundred dollars was presented to Miss May Puett, President of CBC, for its Endowment Fund by the Lenoir Audubon Club, first local organization in the Carolinas to make such a donation.—FRED H. MAY (Credit goes to Fred H. May and Tom Parks for planning and programming the successful Blowing Rock field trip.—Ed.)



## ORNITHOLOGY ESSAY CONTEST

The North Carolina Academy of Science is planning this year to expand and improve its science education program, especially in regard to the public schools. The exhibits and contests which heretofore have been held at the time and place of the Academy's annual meeting in May will now, in expanded form, be held at a separate State Science Fair on April 22-23 at Duke University.

Regional science fairs will also be started this year for the first time, one in each of the six districts of the N. C. Education Association. Winners in the districts will go on to the State Fair. The essay contests will be handled in the same manner as the exhibit and other contests.

The subject of this year's Ornithology Essay Contest is "The Migration of Birds". This fascinating subject will appeal to the imagination and allow freedom and initiative in approach. A main source of material is *Migration of Birds*, by F. C. Lincoln, United States Fish and Wildlife Circular No. 16, for sale by Supt. of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 30¢, or possibly free through a congressman. Additional information can be found in back issues of *Wildlife in North Carolina*, *The Chat* (Bulletin of Carolina Bird Club), encyclopedias, library books, and many popular and scientific magazines. A list of references is available on request from Dr. T. L. Quay, Zoology Department, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

The contest rules are as follows:

1. Not more than four essays may be entered from the same high school.
2. Essays are limited to 2,000 words. They must be written (preferably typewritten) on 8½ x 11 inch paper, on one side only. A bibliography in good form must be attached.
3. Essays must be in the hands of the District Fair Chairman two weeks before the date of the district fair. The four best essays in each district will compete in the State Fair contest.
4. Open to students of junior and senior high schools.

There will be a first prize in each district of \$10.00. Substantial, but still undetermined, first, second, and third prizes will be awarded to the State contest winners.

The place, date, director, and Ornithology Essay Contest chairman for each of the district fairs are as follows:

Northeastern—East Carolina College, Greenville, April 2. Dr. J. O. Derrick, director. Mr. Robert L. Wolff, Box 294, Greenville, chairman.

North Central—N. C. State College, Raleigh, April 2. Dr. Alfred F. Borg, director. Mr. Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, chairman.

Southeastern—Flora Macdonald College, Red Springs, April 16. Dr. Amy LeVesconte, director. Mr. James Stephens, Jr., Box 841, Lumberton, chairman.

Northwestern—Woman's College, U. N. C., Greensboro, April 2. Professor Robert J. Laffin, director. Mr. James Mattocks, Box 462, High Point, chairman.

South Piedmont—Catawba College, Salisbury, April 16. Professor Hansel L. Hughes, director. Miss Sarah Nooe, Queens College, Charlotte, chairman.

Western—Western Carolina College, Cullowhee, April 16. Dr. J. G. Eller, director. Mrs. Lucile Gault, Brasstown, chairman.

Each interested teacher or student should write to the proper district director for an illustrated folder giving all the details about the entire 1955 North Carolina Science Fairs. The district essay contest chairmen will be glad to answer questions and provide further information.

C.B.C. members can make this essay contest a great success by encouraging their own and other high school children to enter the lists!—T. L. Quay, Zoology Department, N. C. State College, Raleigh

---

With deepest sorrow we record the passing on October 5, 1954, of Mrs. Harry Alexander, President of the Catesby Bird Club, High Point, N. C.

---



## GENERAL FIELD NOTES

*Advisory Council:* E. B. Chamberlain, Robert Holmes, Jr., Robert Overing, Thomas W. Simpson, Arthur Stupka, Robert L. Wolff.

*Department Editor:* B. R. Chamberlain, Route 1, Matthews, N. C.

This department will carry noteworthy data to the extent of the allotted space. Bare lists of occurrences, unless of special interest, will be held for publication in regional groupings. All material should be sent to the Department Editor. It may be presented in final form or subject to re-write. The normal dead-line for any issue is six weeks prior to the issue date. Data must be complete enough to enable the Council to render decisions.

A Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis ibis*) was seen Aug. 8, 1954, at Litchfield Plantation, near Georgetown, S. C., by Maj. Peter Gething and James F. Cooper. A first-hand account of the find is in preparation for *The Chat*.

We note with interest the passing of the Lesser Common Loon. In the 29th., Supplement to the A.O.U. Check-List (April 1954), *Gavia immer classon* is ruled out as inseparable from the nominate form. The Common Loon reverts to binomial status: *Gavia immer* (Brünnich).

**Florida Red-tailed Hawk Collected at Wilmington, N. C.**—On June 8, 1953, I collected a Red-tailed Hawk near Mott's Creek, three miles south of Wilmington, N. C., which seemed to me to represent the Florida race (*Buteo jamaicensis umbrinus*). Comparison of this hawk with the two specimens of the Florida subspecies in the N. C. State Museum further confirmed my belief. Director Harry T. Davis, of that institution, kindly submitted the Mott's Creek bird to the National Museum and received from Herbert Friedmann the following comment: "You are quite correct in that it represents the Florida sub-species,—The chief characteristic by which this identification is made is the dark color of the ventral markings. The tail is not particularly well marked with the characteristics of this race, and in this specimen is not diagnostic in itself."

When first seen this hawk was perched in a dead pine, and even at some distance the coloration of the underparts was very conspicuous, giving the effect of a brown hawk with a white band across the chest.

The mounted specimen has been deposited in the collection of the N. C. State Museum.—JOHN B. FUNDERBURG. *East Carolina College, Greenville, N. C.* (Prior records of the occurrence of the Florida Red-tailed Hawk north of the boundary of the state of Florida apparently are limited to three: two taken in the vicinity of Rocky Mount, N. C., one of these shot Jan. 21, 1939, the other undated, and both presented to the State Museum where identification was later confirmed by H. C. Obserholser; one taken Feb. 9, 1926, near Charleston, S. C., and now in the collection of the Charleston Museum. A hawk taken in 1909, in Burke County, Ga., that was in the collection of the late Dr. E. E. Murphy, and listed in his *Observations On The Bird Life Of The Middle Savannah River Valley* (1937) on the basis that the specimen "seems to conform to this subspecies," has been identified as *Buteo jamaicensis borealis* by John Aldrich. This specimen, now in the Augusta Museum, was submitted to the National Museum at our request by J. FRED DENTON.—Dept. Ed).

**Mourning Dove: Nesting Data.**—A certain pine tree on Edgewater Park, near Charleston, has a definite attraction for Mourning Doves. Once a member of a sizeable grove, it now stands with a lone companion at the intersection of two dirt roads, with houses within stone-throwing distance on three sides.

During mid-September, 1954, I kept a daily watch over a female dove incubating her two eggs in a frail nest about 20 feet above ground, in this pine. I was interested in this particular nest for two reasons: it was late in the season for doves to be nesting here; and this was the beginning of the *seventh* brood to be fostered in this same nest. For four years now a pair of doves (I have no way of knowing if it is the same pair) have used this same nest—each season adding twigs to replace dislodged ones. Last year there were two broods and this was the third brood this summer. This third set of eggs hatched Sept. 16, and the young birds left Sept. 25.

Two years ago a Wood Pewee built its nest on the same limb with the dove nest—seven feet away toward the tip.—ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C.* (This seems to be a record for continuing use of one nest by Mourning Doves. TOM PARKS, at *Lenoir, N. C.*, writes of a second brood in his yard this summer. The nest, also in a pine, contained at least one hatched young as early as March 9. Both young left on March 21, but returned to spend the nights on March 22, and 23. On April 12, a second set of eggs was hatched in this nest. The young were blown out by high winds on the night of April 16, however.—*Dept. Ed*).

**Horned Lark Breeding at Greenville, S. C.**—On March 10, 1954, evidence of the Horned Lark breeding at Donaldson AFB, near Greenville, S. C. came to my attention. I watched a male singing from the top of a small chunk of concrete. Later events proved that the territory had already been established and incubation was well underway at that date.

A nest was located on March 16 containing two very young birds. However, they had disappeared by March 22. The nest was lined with grass, bits of string and upholstery from automobiles. The usual nearby rock or tuft of grass was missing.

A second nest was found April 12. Again there were two young, about four days old and an infertile egg. The egg is at present in the collection of the Charleston Museum. This brood left the nest April 19. Throughout May the parents were involved in feeding them.

The female revealed her new nest June 5 when she was seen with nesting material. The first egg was laid on June 7, and was followed the next day by another. An automobile parked close to the nest depression and caved it in slightly. It was deserted before another egg was laid. Though I never found a fourth nest I feel sure that the pair persisted in their attempt to raise a second brood.—JAMES B. SHULER, JR., *Greenville, S. C.* (See *The Chat*, 15: 48 & 80, 1951).

**Brown Thrasher Anting.**—May 30, 1954; about 3:30 P.M; temp. 85°. My son Norman called to me to come to the window—a Brown Thrasher was anting. The bird was picking up ants from the ground immediately in front of it and placing them in the fluffed feathers of its *breast*. The operation was repeated three times. This bird presumably was one of a pair that was at that time feeding two well grown young at our feeder. It was our first observation of anting by any bird, and, as far as I know, a first record of anting by a Brown Thrasher. Several small red ants were collected promptly after the bird flew but they have not yet been identified. This observation raises to sixteen, the number of species of birds reported anting, that I have knowledge of. References to them may be found in the Sept. 1954, *Chat*.—B. R. CHAMBERLAIN, *Matthews, N. C.*

**Do Robins Get Drunk?**—Sometime ago The Associated Press carried a story in which a number of distinguished gentlemen, including a police court judge familiar with drunks, disavowed any knowledge of drunken Robins. In the story it was supposed that the Robins got tipsy from a diet of china berries. All this is so much nonsense. Take it from a witness who has encountered many a bird that was falling-down "drunk".

When a boy in Augusta, Ga., in the 1920's, I spent many exhausting afternoons taking "drunk" Robins home — to my home. In those days Robins came to Augusta in tremendous flocks each winter. In our section, on the eastern slope of The Hill, they spent the day eating sugar berries. At night they roosted in a large swamp to the west of the city, and at about 4 p.m. each day hordes of them passed over our place on the way to the swamp. They came in waves of about 50 birds each, with the waves a minute or so apart. And this lasted until dark. As the waves approached, several of us stood on the corner and watched for "drunks." Suddenly a bird would falter, lose equilibrium, regain it, lose it again and descend with erratic wing beats. As a bird faltered we started running toward the spot where he would land. They came down everywhere, and on the ground they ran for cover. When we caught one we stuffed him in our shirts and went after others. Some afternoons I caught 15 or 20 Robins.

One year I had my own aviary. Each day I deposited my catch in an abandoned rabbit hutch, and finally had about 200 birds. Then mother put a stop to the project and ordered their release. I continued to catch "drunk" Robins, letting them go after massaging their throats. That "sobered" them up quickly and they were able to fly again. They acted in a drunken manner because the berries they had crammed themselves with lodged in their throats and literally cut off their wind. The massage cleared the throat.

Charleston this year was visited by the greatest number of Robins in the memory of local ornithologists, but I didn't see a single "drunk."— ERNEST CUTTS, *Charleston, S. C.*

(Exhibitions of the results of over-feeding are not uncommon in birds. Also at Charleston — Sullivan's Island — Tree Swallows during migration have been known to gorge themselves on wax myrtle berries until they fell helpless to the ground and could be gathered by dozens. As for the toxic effect of the food *versus* suffocation, the former seems to have greater support in the literature. A medical opinion, in a more serious vein comes from T. W. Simpson: " --- engorgement with compression of trachea and dyspnea seems a little unlikely to me. The crop is a distensible organ while the trachea of the bird and other vertebrates is a fairly rigid cartilaginous tube which does not compress easily even in the presence of certain tumors. As you recall, some geese in Europe are fattened by forcing large amounts of food into their crop under pressure. These geese apparently do not show any ill effects other than mechanical disadvantage of being weighted down."—Dept. Ed).

**Disaster in Migration.** — On the night of Oct. 7, 1954, there was a "rain" of small birds at several spots in the Southeast. At this writing (Oct. 12), reports are fragmentary except from Charleston, thanks to Ernest Cutts of the Charleston Evening Post; and from Winston-Salem, thanks to Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Simpson, and Dr. and Mrs. M. P. Spencer.

At Charleston, "city streets yielded bushels of — corpses. Trees, shrubs, hedges, and lawns were full of injured birds seeking shelter." At the Municipal Airport, at about 11 o'clock, the ceilometer beam was "filled with clouds of birds." A resident on Charlotte Street, near the W.C.S.C., radio tower heard what "sounded like rain hitting the windows." Her porch "was covered with dead and injured birds." Bodies were seen floating in slips in the harbor. On the east bank of the Cooper River, the ground around a radio tower "was covered with bodies." At another tower on the west bank of the Ashley River "there were thousands on the ground." About 100 birds were selected for preservation at the Charleston Museum. Twenty-four species were noted.

At Winston-Salem the reported loss was less spectacular. However, 190 birds were picked up - mostly at the airport ceilometer. Twenty-one species were identified.

What happened? Apparently this: Weatherwise, there was a perfect setting for disaster. The long drawn-out summer had held back migration

by weeks. When it finally got underway, airways concentration was abnormally high. On October 5 and 6 a cold front started to move down from the Great Lakes area. With increasing speed it forced the migrants ahead helter-skelter. On the 7th., the cross-wind associated with the movement of the front came in rapidly from the Northeast. Tumbling temperatures, overcast skies, and stabbing beacons were perfectly timed for disaster for the heavy flights of small birds on the night of Oct. 7.

Most of the birds collected were warblers. Yellow-throats outnumbered all other species at Charleston. At Winston-Salem, 30% of the collected birds were Ovenbirds.

The list of species at Charleston: Sora Rail, Winter Wren, Marsh (Long-billed) Wren, Sedge (Short-billed) Wren, Catbird, Red-eyed Vireo, and these warblers - Black and White, Swainson's **Worm-eating**, **Golden-winged**, Parula, Magnolia, **Cairn's Black-Throated Blue**, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-poll, Palm, Oven-bird, Small-billed (Northern) Water-Thrush, Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, American Redstart; also, Scarlet Tanager, and Seaside Sparrow.

The Winston-Salem list was tabulated by numbers of each species: Wood Thrush, 1; Swainson's (Olive-backed) Thrush, 8; Gray-cheeked Thrush, 2; Red-eyed Vireo, 25; **Philadelphia Vireo**, 1; The warblers—Black and White, 5; Tennessee, 30; Parula, 1; Magnolia, 6; Cape May, 2; Black-throated Blue, 3; Black-throated Green, 2; Blackburnian, 7; Chestnut-sided, 14; Bay-breasted, 13; Oven-bird, 56; Yellow-throat, 2; American Redstart, 4; also Scarlet Tanager, 4; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2; Indigo Bunting, 2.

Although detailed weather data were obtained from both of the above stations, they are withheld for broader comparisons when the losses at Savannah, Ga., and other points are available.—Dept. Ed.

**Lark Sparrow at Greensboro, N. C.**—On the morning of July 30, 1954, I was showing friends from Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Shaggs, Blue Grosbeaks when we spotted at some distance what appeared to be a Horned Lark. Fortunately, we followed it and detected it to be a Lark Sparrow. It was viewed for several minutes at about 40 feet in clear sunlight while perched on a wire about 4 feet off the ground. We clearly discerned the cheek and throat markings as well as the breast spot and white edging of the tail. It was the white in the tail which caused me to spot it at a distance. The Shaggs are a most competent couple in the field. They have seen Lark Sparrows in the mid-West often and know it well. The bird we saw was undoubtedly an immature as it had the streaking down the sides of the upper breast characteristic of that plumage. This would indicate possible breeding in North Carolina.—GEORGE A. SMITH, *Greensboro, N. C.* (Lark Sparrow records are scarce in the Carolinas. Since the spring of 1949 Mrs. Appleberry has found one or two regularly in the Wilmington area. H. H. Brimley recorded a deserted nest near Raleigh in 1890—Dept. Ed.).

#### Briefs for the Files

**Red-throated Loon**, 1, Taw Creek, Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Summerton, S. C., Apr. 30-May 21, Robert J. Lemaire. **Am. Bittern**, 1, Rocky Mount, N. C., June 9, J. W. E. Joyner. **Blue-winged Teal**, approx., 100, Pea Island Refuge, July 26, Mrs. Charlotte H. Green. **Bald Eagle**, 5 full plumage birds circled two to three hundred feet above pasture on mainland near Pawley's Island, S. C., with sustained high pitched "twittering," Sept. 9, B. R. and N. A. Chamberlain, K. C. Sisson. **Sora Rail**, 4 near Beaufort, N. C., Sept. 25, T. L. Quay. **Piping Plover**, several at Pea Island, Sept. 2, Richard H. Peake, Jr. **White-rumped Sandpiper**, 1, Santee Refuge, May 12, R. J. L. Avocet, 2 in excellent plumage, stood at length on one leg, neck drawn, Shark Shoals, Beaufort, N. C., Sept. 26, T. L. Q. **Yellow-billed Cuckoo**, adult feeding young, North Pond, Pea Island Refuge, Sept. 2, R. H. P., Jr. **Cliff Swallow**, flock of 20 near Purtlear, Wilkes Co., N. C., July 18, Wendell P. Smith; 3 at Winston-Salem, May 9, Edward Kissam; 2 at Greenville, S. C., May 9, J. B. Shuler, Jr. **Prothonotary Warbler**, singing male investigated martin gourd hung 7 feet up in mimosa, Eastover, S. C., June 14, Mrs. W. H. Faver. **Yellow-throated Warbler** feeding nestlings, Kings Mountain National Park, York Co., S. C., July 10, Leeds Cushman. **Black-poll** 1, Rocky Mount, May 24, J. W. E. J. **Summer Tanager**, several at Troy, N. C., Sept. 26, Frances M. Covington. **Grasshopper Sparrow**, 1 singing male, near North Wilkesboro, late in July, W. P. S. *All dates 1954*



*Founded March 6, 1937*

*Incorporated August 8, 1949*

The Carolina Bird Club is an incorporated association for the study and conservation of wildlife, particularly birds, in the Carolinas. Founded in 1937 as the North Carolina Bird Club, it was joined in 1948 by several South Carolina natural history clubs and the name changed to the Carolina Bird Club. In addition to publishing *The Chat*, the Club also: (1) holds an annual spring business meeting and a fall dinner meeting, (2) conducts club-wide field trips to places of outstanding ornithological interest, (3) sponsors Christmas and Spring Bird Censuses by local groups, (4) encourages original research and publication, (5) aids in the establishment of local clubs and sanctuaries, (6) takes an active interest in conservation legislation, (7) cooperates with State and Federal agencies, and (8) furnishes information and speakers to interested groups whenever possible.

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., is a non-profit educational and scientific organization with no paid personnel. Dues, contributions, and bequests to the Club are deductible from State and Federal income and estate taxes.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone interested in birds, wildlife, and out-of-doors. The annual dues for the classes of membership are:

Regular .....	\$1.00	Contributing .....	\$25.00
Supporting .....	\$5.00	Affiliated Club .....	\$2.00
Life—\$100.00 (payable in four consecutive annual installments)			

All members not in arrears for dues receive *The Chat*. Seventy-five cents of each annual membership fee is applied as the annual subscription to *The Chat*. Checks should be made payable to the Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Application blanks may be obtained from the Treasurer, to whom all correspondence regarding membership should be addressed.

The activities of the Club and the coverage of *The Chat* will grow in amount and quality as increased funds become available. Prompt payment of dues and the securing of new members are vital contributions open to everyone.

### OFFICERS FOR 1954-1955

*President:* Miss May Puett, Box 2183, Greenville, S. C.

*Vice-Presidents:* Robert Overing, Route 4, Raleigh, N. C.; Fred May, Lenoir, N. C.; Linville Hendren, Elkin, N. C.

*Secretary:* Thomas W. Simpson, Winston-Salem, N. C.

*Treasurer:* Edwin W. Winkler, 509 Gardner St., Raleigh, N. C.

The *Executive Committee* is composed of the Officers, the Editors and the following four elected Members-at-large: Rhett Chamberlain, Matthews, N. C.; Fred Sample, Columbia, S. C.; Dr. Christine Wilton, Greenville, N. C. and Leon Ballance, Lake Landing, N. C.